

League condemns Falasha airlift

TUNIS (R) — The Arab League Saturday condemned a recent airlift by Israel of Ethiopian Jews as "an undertaking combining piracy and racial discrimination." The statement by the League's secretary said: "By expatriating thousands of Ethiopian citizens... the Zionist state (Israel) revealed, once more, its true face. Israel took advantage of exceptional circumstances as well as the tragedy striking thousands of African citizens to put to the fore its racist vision," it said. Meanwhile, Sudan on Saturday reiterated accusations that Ethiopia had received weapons and food from Israel in return for allowing Falashas to go to the Jewish state. It said that part of the "price" of the operation will be an Israeli shipment of food to Ethiopia on Jan. 27. The Sudan News agency carried a statement by Foreign Minister Hashem Osman which also repeated denials that Sudan had a role in the airlift of the Ethiopian Jews, which began in November, and was ended last Sunday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز مؤسسة صحفية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرأي

Abu Iyad favours U.S.-PLO talks

ABU DHABI (R) — A leading Palestinian official was quoted Saturday as saying he favoured a dialogue between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad), a senior political advisor to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, also said in an interview with the daily Al Kaleej newspaper of the Gulf emirate of Sharjah: "Those (radical PLO groups) who do not want a dialogue with the U.S. are short-sighted," he added. There is a difference between having a dialogue and being an agent for the United States. Washington refuses to deal with the PLO unless it recognises Israel. Israel was founded in 1948 on Arab land and occupied the Arab West Bank and Gaza Strip by force in 1967. The PLO refuses to recognise Israel as a result. Mr. Khalaf repeated charges that Syria was backing plots by anti-Arafat forces to assassinate prominent Palestinian leaders. He said three camps had been set up outside Damascus to train people for that purpose.

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Pro-Israeli militia office attacked

SIDON, Lebanon (R) — A bomb exploded Saturday near a pro-Israeli "national guard" office in the Ain Al Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of Sidon in South Lebanon wounding three people, security sources said. Resistance men so far this year have killed six people from the camp said to be collaborators with Israeli occupation forces.

Sisco holds talks with Kuwaiti leaders

KUWAIT (R) — Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco had talks here Saturday on the Middle East conflict, which Kuwaiti officials said could only be resolved by an Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territory. Mr. Sisco, on a Middle East tour sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency, had separate meetings with Kuwait's crown prince and prime minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, and Foreign Minister Under-Secretary Rashed Al Rashed.

U.S. military chief begins visit to China

PEKING (R) — General John Vessey, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived in Peking Saturday for talks with Chinese military leaders. Gen. Vessey, who was accompanied by Admiral William Crowe, commander-in-chief of U.S. forces in the Pacific, is the most senior American military figure to visit China in more than 30 years.

Shultz, Gromyko may meet again

PARIS (AP) — U.S. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane hinted Friday at the possibility of a second meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko to help define the areas of upcoming arms control talks. Mr. McFarlane, speaking at a news conference, also said that the United States had some "new ideas" to contribute to the negotiations but that the independent nuclear forces of France and Britain would not be compromised in any agreement.

Saudi leader to visit Algeria, France

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah is to visit Algeria and France later this month for talks on means of solving problems dividing African Arab states, it was reported here Saturday. Prince Abdullah was to commence his four-day visit to Algeria Jan. 22, when he will hold talks with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

Reagan to keep advisory council

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan has decided to retain his council of economic advisers, an administration official said Saturday. The council, created by Congress in 1946, provides the president with advice from experts outside government and has often played an important role in planning economic policy.

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Lebanese army deploys along coastal highway towards Awali

JIYEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Lebanese army troops won an emotional welcome Saturday from war-weary villagers but met occasional snags in their mission to take over the militia-held coast road south from Beirut.

Villagers threw flowers and rice, cheering as some 2,000 troops in tanks, trucks, armoured personnel carriers and jeeps deployed down the coast to the Christian port of Jiyeh, about 10 kilometres from Israel's Awali River front line.

Marie Azza, an elderly resident who waved as the convoy drove into Jiyeh along roads pocked by shell craters, said: "We hope it will go well — welcome to the army."

The army convoy halted briefly when Shi'ite Muslim Amal fighters refused to leave a building beside the road. It finally moved on, with unarmed Amal men in civilian dress still occupying the house.

Militiamen of the mainly Christian "Lebanese Forces" later prevented troops from the army's mainly-Muslim Sixth Brigade from approaching Saadiyat, the first Christian-held village on the army's route.

State-run Beirut Radio quoted Army Commander Michel Aoun as telling troops in the day's orders: "You are setting out on this mission under a unified political cover."

Rival militias, who have fought daily artillery battles in the Kharrub hills near the coast, allowed the peace plan to get underway on Tuesday when about 200 armed police moved down the coast road and into the hills.

Both militias say they have withdrawn their heavy weapons and fighters not native to the Kharrub in line with the plan.

Ayyoub Humayed, representing Amal on an all-party liaison committee supervising the deployment, told Reuters Saturday: "The essential job is for the Lebanese army to open the road to the south. We must take away Israel's pretext for the road's closure."

Israel has said the only reason for the 11-month closure of the coast road was fighting between Lebanese militias. Gunmen of the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army guarding the Awali bridge said they did not know if the army move would affect traffic at the crossing.

Lebanon intends the deployment to prepare for army control in all South Lebanon whenever Israel ends its 31-month-old occupation.

A stream of more than 20 trucks, armoured personnel carriers and jeeps carried soldiers of the army's 12th brigade to reopen the strategic roadway Saturday.

The infantry men were accompanied by seven French-made AMX-13 tanks flying giant new Lebanese flags. They reached Jiyeh around midday (1000 GMT), four hours after the troops began moving from the southern outskirts of the capital.

(Continued on page 3)



Militiamen of the Progressive Socialist Party withdrew their tanks from the Kharrub region south of Beirut on Saturday as part of a government plan to deploy army troops on the coastal highway linking Beirut with the Israeli-occupied South Lebanon (AP wirephoto)

3 killed, 31 injured in 2 Beirut blasts

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Two bombs exploded within minutes of each other in the centre of west Beirut Saturday, killing three people and wounding 31, security sources said.

They said three people were killed and 29 wounded when a bomb exploded near the Arab University. It had been planted in a pile of garbage in a demolished building.

Five minutes earlier, a bomb had gone off near a car park less than 500 metres away, wounding two people, the sources said.

Rescuers in streets busy with traffic fired automatic rifles in the air to make way for ambulances, eyewitnesses said.

In the same district Friday, a 25-kilogramme bomb exploded beside a bank, killing three people and wounding 40. On Wednesday night a bomb wrecked a restaurant near the American University, killing three people.

U.S. seeks release of captive Americans, page 2

Pakistan to go to polls on Feb. 25

ISLAMABAD (R) — Martial law President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq Saturday announced that Pakistan's first general elections in eight years would be held on Feb. 25.

Political parties, banned since 1979, would not be allowed to contest the polls for the civilian national assembly due to open on March 23, he said in a televised address to the nation.

Gen. Zia, who has twice cancelled promised polls since seizing power in 1977, said officials of all parties not registered with the government would be excluded from the polls unless he personally waived the ban.

Some political parties were registered in 1979 and their officials could contest as individuals without party labels.

But officials of parties which did not register in 1979 are barred from contesting.

The moderate Tehrik-I-Istiqal is the only group in the 11-party opposition Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) which is registered.

Military authorities have rounded up at least 50 MRD activists over the past four days to prevent anti-government protests in Lahore, capital of Punjab province, and Rawalpindi, opposition sources said.

The MRD parties say they will boycott the elections and continue protests against Gen. Zia and his controversial referendum last month which assured him five more years in power.

The president, dressed in his general's uniform, did not spell out the changes he wanted to make in the suspended 1973 constitution before the elections to enhance the powers of the president.

He said candidates in the elections would have to be upright citizens and would have to limit their campaigning to indoor meetings, canvassing and posters.

France sends 1,000 police to New Caledonia

PARIS (R) — Prime Minister Laurent Fabius announced Saturday 1,000 police would be sent to New Caledonia, where a state of emergency has been declared amid fears of fighting between white settlers and militant Kanaks.

Mr. Fabius announced the decision to journalists after a crisis meeting with Interior Minister Pierre Joxe and Defence Minister Charles Hernu, which followed 24 hours of violence in the French South Pacific territory.

"I have decided to send 1,000 men immediately to New Caledonia as a reinforcement to protect law and order," Mr. Fabius said.

France's special envoy in New Caledonia, Edgar Pisani, declared the state of emergency after police shot dead two prominent Kanak (Melanesian) militants and fought running battles with several thousand rioting white settlers in the capital, Noumea (See page 8).

Rabin outlines phased withdrawal plan

TEL AVIV (AP) — Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in an interview Saturday that he will present a plan to the government Sunday calling for a complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon.

Interviewed on Israel Radio, Mr. Rabin made clear that the withdrawal would begin along the coastal "front line" along the Awali River, 60 kilometres north of the Israeli border at Rosh Hanigra and would then be followed by a withdrawal along the eastern front with Syria.

The aim, Mr. Rabin said was to "deploy the Israeli army in Israeli territory, leaning on a security in South Lebanon held by forces friendly to us."

Mr. Rabin gave no time table for a withdrawal, saying only that it "will be executed in stages... so that we can maintain a freedom of decision, to change things if it turns out that developments are significantly different from what we expected."

On Friday the radio said most government ministers favoured a phased pullout over a six-month

period, as political negotiations with the Lebanese government appeared to be deadlocked. The Jerusalem Post quoted unnamed sources as saying the proposed pullback would be in three stages.

Mr. Rabin said his plan assumes that Syria "will not move large forces south if we vacate the eastern front. Therefore the entire area will be one in which there will be no Syrian presence. Therefore Israel's freedom of action will be great."

Mr. Rabin said he had decided on the unilateral withdrawal because "the political path has exhausted itself. The Lebanese and Syrian positions demand an Israeli army withdrawal without assuring any suitable security arrangements."

However, Mr. Rabin said that he expected Israel to return to the Israel-Lebanon military level talks in Naqoura, South Lebanon, at least one more time to respond to certain Lebanese questions raised in previous meetings.

Mr. Rabin also said that the Israeli government was open to new

suggestions that may be brought from Lebanon by U.N. Under-Secretary Brian Urquhart and U.N. shuttle diplomat Jean Claude Aimee, who are hoping to break the impasse in the talks.

There was still vocal opposition in the Israeli cabinet to a complete withdrawal. Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir said on Israel Television that Israel should not leave Lebanon completely without a negotiated agreement.

Mr. Rabin's refusal to publicly issue a timetable for completion of the withdrawal appeared to be a concession to Mr. Shamir and other hardline ministers. On Friday Israel Radio said a secret timetable may be included with the plan.

Mr. Shamir has not ruled out a partial withdrawal but opposes setting a date for a total pullback to the international border.

The Jerusalem Post quoted unnamed sources as saying the phased pullback would be in three stages and that there would be a "testing period" between each phase lasting a number of weeks.

Israel seeks to move border to Awali, Lebanese say

By William MacLean
Reader

BEIRUT — Lebanon is ready to deploy 10,000 soldiers to police the southern third of the country once Israel pulls out but detailed arguments over security block a withdrawal accord, authoritative Lebanese sources say.

The sources, briefing journalists on military talks with Israel on ending its 31-month-old occupation, gave a detailed account of how the military negotiations have reached deadlock.

The talks broke down last Monday after Lebanon said it wanted an Israeli timetable for the withdrawal of its troops, deployed up to the Awali River, before considering Israeli demands that U.N. peacekeepers deploy across South Lebanon.

"They (the Israelis) want to use the U.N. as a cover to transfer the Israeli border to the Awali," one source said.

The sources said the following

positions developed during the negotiations, which began on Nov. 8.

— Israel proposed dividing South Lebanon into two security zones. One, between the Awali and Zaharani rivers at the coast and stretching east to Syria's border, would be policed by an extensive deployment of U.N. troops backed by Lebanon's army.

— Israel said the role of U.N. peacekeepers in this zone would be extended to active policing, with authority for operations such as conducting ambushes. The rest of the south would be policed by an Israeli-backed militia with a "symbolic" U.N. presence.

— Lebanon proposed a different division of the south, into zones either side of the central mountains. One army brigade, about 4,000 troops, would secure the eastern Bekaa and Rashaiya area, another would secure the western coastal area.

The heavily-populated area between the Awali and Zaharani

would be policed by around 2,000 tactical support troops.

— Israel countered that the Lebanese army needed more than 10,000 troops to police South Lebanon.

— Lebanon replied that, unlike Israeli occupation troops, their soldiers would be in their own country and therefore would have the support of the local population.

— Lebanon made clear it would accept deployment of the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), at present 5,200-strong and stationed south of the Litani River. But Lebanon deliberately did not elaborate on UNIFIL at the talks at U.N. South Lebanon headquarters in Naqoura, saying the matter was one for discussion between Lebanon and the U.N. only.

— Lebanon declared the Israeli-backed militia, the 2,000-strong "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) at present deployed alongside Israeli

occupation troops, must be dissolved.

— When the two sides discussed the possibility of integrating the SLA into Lebanon's regular army, Israel made clear Lebanon's army commander, Michel Aoun, would not have the power to send former SLA members to posts elsewhere in Lebanon.

— Israel pressed its demand that Lebanon allow UNIFIL to deploy across the south. Lebanon answered by presenting a demand, formally announced on Jan. 6 by President Amin Gemayel, for an Israeli timetable.

— This was declined. The talks broke down.

One source elaborated on the Lebanese stance by saying: "We want them to give us a plan at least to show good intention that they do want to withdraw."

made by Israel, a senior government source said: "We first have to know the real goal of these talks. It's not a question of balance."

Israel invaded Lebanon in June 1982 with the declared aim of ejecting Palestinian commandos. At Naqoura, it says it is negotiating "security arrangements" for South Lebanon that would stop Palestinians from returning to attack northern Israel.

The sources declared they were optimistic that the Naqoura talks would resume next week, most probably on Thursday.

The sources said they did not foresee the issue of Israel's electronic monitoring station on the Jebel Barouk peak in the Shouf mountains hampering the withdrawal talks.

A full Israeli withdrawal would entail Israel giving up the station, which eavesdrops on communications and air traffic around Lebanon, Syria and beyond.

135 feared dead in Gulf air crash

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A West German Lufthansa jetliner crashed into the Gulf waters near the Iranian coast Saturday, and Kuwait air port control tower sources said that 135 persons were believed killed.

The sources, quoted by the Associated Press, said it was "very likely" that a number of the passengers were still alive.

"We know there were more than 190 persons aboard the plane," said one Kuwaiti airport officer, who refused to be identified. "It is very likely that a number of the passengers survived."

The source said the report from the plane said "we are sinking."

In Oman, Muscat air traffic control said a plane had crashed near the coast of Iran, but could give no further details.

Israeli ham radio operator Mickey Gurdus told the Associated Press that he heard Kuwait air control tower say that there were 197 people on the plane and that there were 62 survivors.

He said a man claiming to be a passenger on the plane sent out a "May Day" message saying that the plane crashed near the Iranian coast, that it was filling up with water and he was bailing out.

Gurdus said he had heard signals from Iranian aircraft searching for the crashed plane but they had not found anything.

Gurdus said he had received contradictory reports on the identity of the aircraft. He said the man claiming to be a passenger described the plane as Bangladesh, while Aden air control tower in South Yemen described the plane as German.

The control tower did not say whether it was West or East German, Gurdus said. However, Gurdus said the control tower reported that the plane was a Boeing 707, an American aircraft which an East German company would be unlikely to own.

Gurdus monitors short wave radio broadcasts around the Middle East and has often been the first to pick up information of plane hijacking in the area.

In Bahrain, airport control tower officers said their radio monitors picked up a distress signal from the plane "that it was falling." But they disclaimed any knowledge about its type or nationality.

The Abu Dhabi airport tower, reached by telephone from Bahrain, confirmed the crash but said the nationality of the aircraft was not known.

Luce voices concern over attacks in Gulf

BAHRAIN (R) — Britain is deeply concerned over recent attacks on merchant shipping in the Gulf and fears they might disrupt trade in the waterway, British Foreign Office Minister of State Richard Luce said Saturday.

"These attacks on tankers are very worrying... our fear is that acts of warfare by both Iran and Iraq will intimidate shipowners and... diminish trade in the Gulf," he told a news conference at the end of a three-day official visit to Bahrain.

Mr. Luce, whose talks with Bahraini officials focused on the Gulf war, said this concern was shared by Bahrain and other Gulf states which fear any spillover of the war might cause instability in the region.

"From our point of view, which is the same as Bahrain's, if the Gulf war spreads... it will cause instability in the area... in countries where we have good relations," he said.

Attacks on merchant shipping have picked up this month, Iraq says it has struck at eight "naval targets" in the waterway already

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Pope praises resumption of superpower dialogue

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul said Saturday the superpowers' agreement to resume arms talks brought the world prudent optimism and he offered the Roman Catholic Church's mediation to resolve conflicts in Central America.

In a comprehensive address on the world situation to ambassadors to the Vatican, the Pope also said the world urgently needed to resolve problems of regional conflicts, human rights, terrorism, drugs and underdevelopment.

The pontiff, who was briefed here by Reagan administration officials this week on the U.S.-Soviet talks in Geneva, called the superpowers' agreement an extremely necessary step to resume a dialogue that had been frozen for too long.

"It seems that one can once again feel a prudent optimism. God willing, the valuable negotiations, which no doubt will be laborious, may confirm the favourable forecasts," he said.

The pontiff said the United States and the Soviet Union had enormous moral and political responsibility for humanity's fate because of their unrivaled economic and military power.

He added that the "bipolarisation" of the superpowers could limit freedom of expression and initiatives of other nations and that international relations needed reciprocity, solidarity and collaboration.

"This responsibility of the two powers... finds its justification only in as far as it allows other countries to take their place, to take their own initiatives... for the good of the world community," he said. "There is no peace dialogue without accepting justice."

Discussing regional conflicts around the world, he offered the church's mediation in Central America, where the local church in El Salvador has already played a major role in talks between the government and leftist guerrillas.

"The church knows well that de-escalation is difficult but that there must be the courage to begin. For its part, for example in Central America, it is ready to offer itself as the place or the occasion allowing sides to meet, to comprehend each other and to begin a sincere peace dialogue," he said.

"If the Holy See talks about it (conflicts) even if members of its church are not involved, it is because it cannot resign itself to see innocents, who have already paid so dearly for the stupidity of war, destroyed and massacred," he said.

The Pope said some countries defended human rights and independence at international organisations but trampled human rights at home and interfered with internal affairs of others.

"How can one talk of the right to independence as the ABC of principles ruling international relations if one intervenes from abroad to incite and support subversive forces in another country... against the will of the majority?" he asked.

Egypt deplores new Israeli settlement in West Bank

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt on Saturday strongly deplored Israel's decision to build new settlements in the occupied West Bank, saying it was both illegal and prejudicial to Middle East peace.

A Foreign Ministry statement carried by the official Cairo Radio said that despite the move, Egypt continued to hope that the present Israeli government coalition led by Prime Minister Shimon Peres will adopt a moderate line in the conflict with the Arabs.

"Egypt strongly regrets the agreement by the Labour and Likud Parties in Israel to build new settlements in the West Bank," the statement said. Referring to last Thursday's Israel Radio announcement that six new Jewish settlements will be established.

"From the very beginning, Egypt has condemned settlement building in the West Bank and Gaza not only as an obstacle to peace but as an illegal action," the statement said.

Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 Middle East war along with Egypt's Sinai peninsula and Syria's Golan Heights. Sinai was restored to Egypt in 1982 under a peace treaty signed in 1979, the first between an Arab country and Jewish state.

"Our hope was and still is that moderate will prevail in the policies of the present Israeli government," the statement said. "Such actions (settlement building) do not help efforts toward peace and stability."

"The Israeli government should refrain from taking any measures that would contribute to a further deterioration of the situation in the region," the statement said. In Paris Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali Friday night urged the restoration of Palestinian rights as a precondition for peace in the Middle East.

"The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the centre of gravity of the conflict in the Middle East," he said in a lecture to the Franco-Egypt Association during a four-day stay in Paris.

"There will be no global settlement without the restoration of the Palestinians' national rights," Dr. Ghali said. Peace negotiations would not succeed unless measures were taken immediately

to prevent Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which he said were leading to a de facto annexation of the Arab territories.

He said Egypt was trying to draw the world's attention to a degradation of human rights in the territories and cited in particular destruction of Palestinian homes. He called for United Nations-led negotiations to restore Palestinian rights.

He told journalists afterwards that the European Community could play an important role by persuading both the United States and Israel to step up the search for Middle East peace.

Mr. Ghali earlier had talks with French External Relations Minister Roland Dumas.

Meanwhile interim negotiations over the disputed Tabaa area are expected to begin within two weeks, but Egypt holds out little hope of improved relations with Israel until it regains sovereignty over the Red Sea beachfront border. An Egyptian official said Friday.

In an Israel Television interview conducted in Arabic, Egypt's charge d'affaires in Tel Aviv, Muhammad Bassiouny, said the real issue is not about an interim agreement.

"We are not talking about temporary steps but about a solution which goes to the roots... after sovereignty (in Tabaa) is decided we can talk about cooperation."

But Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in a separate TV interview, claimed that Egypt should return its ambassador to Tel Aviv to indicate its goodwill before expecting Israeli concessions over the one-square-kilometre strip of beach.

"I am still waiting to see how the Egyptians will compromise and I think an impressive sign would be the return of their ambassador to Tel Aviv," Mr. Shamir said.

Egypt withdrew its ambassador in Sept. 1982 to protest the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

Negotiations between Israel and Egypt on their one-square kilometre border dispute in the Sinai peninsula are expected to start about Jan. 20, an Israeli official said Friday.

Uri Savir, spokesman for Prime Minister Shimon Peres, said the talks may begin in the next week or two in the southern Israeli city of Beerseheba.

Mr. Savir said in an interview that an opening date of Jan. 20 was "being explored between the two governments."

Libya reportedly seeks Greek arms

ATHENS (R) — Libya is interested in buying Greek military hardware worth \$500 million, Greek Defence Under-Secretary Pausanias Zakolikos has said.

Mr. Zakolikos, who visited Libya last month, told reporters that if the deal went ahead, it would be the first time Greek military technology was exported.

He gave no details of the arms Tripoli wanted but said they would be purely defensive.

Greek State Television reported before his visit that Libya was seeking anti-aircraft guns, including the Greek-developed Artemis System, fast patrol boats,

army vehicles and technical help for the Libyan Air Force.

An agreement signed by Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu in Tripoli in September foresees assistance by this member NATO member to Libya's military industry.

Sharon case set to go to jury on Monday

NEW YORK (R) — A jury resumes work on Monday to decide if Time magazine defamed former Israeli defence chief Ariel Sharon in an article about a 1982 massacre of Palestinian refugees.

The key question facing the four women and two men after their weekend break is whether Time acted with malice and reckless disregard for the truth in publishing its report.

The magazine has already conceded that part of its story on the official Israeli inquiry into the killings at the Sabra and Shatila Refugee Camps at Beirut was wrong. But U.S. law stipulates that malice must be proved in libel cases.

The \$50-million suit will go to the jury following legal instructions from Judge Abraham Sofaer. On Friday the jury heard the last of two days of closing arguments by lawyers for Time and Mr. Sharon, presentations that differed starkly in style and emphasis.

The case centres on a 113-word paragraph in a long Time story on the official Israeli inquiry into the

killings. The paragraph said that Mr. Sharon discussed the need for revenge with Falangist leaders after the murder of Lebanese president-Elect Bashir Gemayel.

After hearing Time lawyer Thomas Barr on Thursday deliver a conversational argument that Time had not intended to libel Sharon, the jury heard a fiery summation of two months' evidence from Sharon lawyer Milton Gould, 75.

Mr. Gould held forth for six hours, accusing Time of printing "filthy lies" and disgracing American journalism.

"What was done to General Sharon — done recklessly and without any decent concern — was an infamy," said Mr. Gould.

Mr. Gould described the media conglomerate as "a vast organism working in its own way with a virtual license to destroy the reputation of other human beings."

In his five-hour summation, Mr. Barr had conceded that Time erred by attributing Mr. Sharon's alleged revenge remark to a secret appendix to inquiry's report.

Mr. Barr said, however, that Time's reporters believed the in-

formation was contained in the appendix when the story was published and therefore were not guilty of malice.

In another bizarre twist, spokesmen for both Mr. Sharon and Time told reporters Friday that Judge Abraham Sofaer made a futile bid to engineer a settlement in the case on Wednesday.

Mr. Gould said the judge drafted "a form of retraction" for Time but Mr. Sharon, whose suit seeks \$50 million, rejected the statement after it was revised by magazine officials.

Another Sharon spokesman said Time officials had emulated the draft.

Mr. Sharon himself told reporters he was not satisfied with Time's offer, which apparently simply repeated a concession made in court that part of its story was erroneous.

"I want a retraction and an apology," Mr. Sharon said. "There is no room to play around."

Court sources reported earlier that Time had offered a retraction last month which was acceptable to Mr. Sharon, but mysteriously withdrew it.

U.S. seeks release of captive Americans

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department Deputy Spokesman Alan Romberg said he had no specific information to offer concerning any of the five Americans who have been kidnapped in Lebanon over the past ten months.

The latest abduction involved the Reverend Lawrence Martin Jenco, director of the Catholic Relief Services operation in Beirut. He was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen on Jan. 8. The Islamic Jihad, a shadowy organisation about which little is known, has claimed responsibility. The Islamic Jihad has said it will not release Americans it holds until all Americans have left Lebanon.

"I really don't have anything to give you on the question of the various people who have been kidnapped," Mr. Romberg told reporters. "Obviously we continue to be in contact with a variety of parties in an effort to obtain the safe release of American citizens held in Lebanon."

Mr. Romberg declined to offer details about the on-going contacts other than to say they were with "parties who might be able to be of assistance."

He emphasised that the administration takes very seriously the effort to bring about the freedom of the Americans, but he pointed out that "these are very sensitive issues."



ARMY TAKES OVER MILITIA AREAS: Militiamen aboard a multiple rocket launcher watch as a Lebanese armed personnel carrier lead an army convoy into militia-held areas south of Beirut Saturday (AP wirephoto)

U.S. will be deeply interested in Middle East, Lugar says

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Senator Richard Lugar, the new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said at a briefing at the Foreign Press Centre on Jan. 10 that Secretary of State George Shultz and Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger would be the first witnesses at a series of foreign policy hearings his committee will hold over several weeks starting on Jan. 31.

Sen. Lugar also discussed the U.S.-Soviet agreement to hold arms talks, the Reagan administration's Strategic Defence Initiative, the relationship between federal budget constraints and foreign assistance, and U.S. policy vis-a-vis Central America, East Asia, the NATO countries, the Middle East and South Asia, and the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Following are Mideast excerpts from Sen. Lugar's briefing:

Question: After the Geneva talks there are wide fears that the U.S. foreign policy will be focused largely on the issue of arms negotiations and relations with the Soviet Union. The question is how much time, energy, and attention will be given to other issues such as the regional conflicts? I have in mind — I am from the Middle East and I have the Middle East in mind.

Answer: Well, I think that there will be great attention paid to the strategic talks but we're going to be deeply interested in the Middle East, in the Congress, and so will the president. I think it goes without saying that life goes on all over this planet in interesting and important ways, and one of the reasons for casting these comprehensive hearings at the beginning was to make certain we don't overlook those things that are going on simultaneously with each other.

Now, specifically, the Middle East questions may arise in the formats of visits by noted authorities and leaders, to this country, in which we'll be involved as a committee, and visiting personally with either heads of state, foreign ministers, or others. We will have a vigorous debate, I am certain, on foreign assistance, both of a military and economic

character. That will be a feature of every year, but it will be especially pointed this year with our own budgetary constraints.

So, I would reassure you that the Middle East will not be forgotten. We are hopeful that, as a matter of fact, we always look for progress there, although I must say I have no news for you today, or any signs, at least, that we are going to make headway in the next few weeks.

Q: I have one more. The U.S. officials, in the past four years, have done so many visits to the Middle East. They achieve little. What will — what do you expect to be done in the coming four years?

A: Well, I don't have any anticipations. I would say that the visits of our officials are important so that we are as well informed as possible, so the interest of the United States is well known.

But I think to ever give the impression that visits by United States officials are likely to be determinative in working out the policies of nation-states in those conflicts, you know, is obviously untrue. There must be some fundamental changes of mind and heart and we will follow those changes cautiously, and try to at least pick up and influence and encourage those that we find.

Q: I would like to ask you something specific about the Middle East. You were quoted a few weeks ago, having said that while the United States is having financial, economic, difficulties of balancing its budget, it may be a bit difficult to support huge increases in foreign aid such as to Israel, \$4,000 million and something, and even to Egypt. Now is this a fair expression of what you feel, one? And two, knowing that the Congress usually, having watched previous Congresses, they always seem to give Israel what Israel wants. Now if this Congress is going to do the same, do you think they may try to influence — I don't want to use the term "pressure" — Israel to adhere to some U.S. policies in the region regarding peace?

A: I suppose there is no more difficult question to predict in the foreign aid area than the aid to

Israel and the aid to Egypt because the two at least have been related when we considered them in the foreign assistance bill and have been related by the administration. So we're really talking about both countries. And my guess is that package of assistance in all forms may very well come to something close to half of the foreign assistance bill. So it's a very consequential item. After you list all of the rest of the countries that may be involved in any one way, it sort of diminishes rapidly.

There is strong support in the Congress for assistance to Israel and Egypt. There is strong support in the administration. One reason why there has been no announcement by the administration is that there is also strong support in both the administration and the Congress for somehow grappling with the problem of our federal deficit.

So on the one hand, we're discussing informally but increasingly in public freezes across the board of every programme domestically. There even is discussion, as you heard at the press conference, about what would have been unthinkable a short time ago, and that is a freeze on the cost of living increase for Social Security, \$3 billion recipients of Social Security. The president didn't sign off "or it," but nevertheless he recognised that might be forthcoming from the Congress, and he hasn't said absolutely no. And now, of course, even discussion of a freeze on either the budget appropriation or the outlays for defence, which gets us into a whole series of questions in terms of burden sharing with allies and with others to whom we have obligations. That is how seriously the budgetary thing is taken.

Now when asked in that context, how is the aid going to go for Israel, Egypt or anybody else, you can understand why there is a great deal of poignancy as members of Congress discuss this with their constituents, who may be in the pathway of programmes that are about to be terminated or even at best frozen.

U.N. team meets Iraqi officials

BAGHDAD (R) — A three-man United Nations team investigating conditions for Gulf war prisoners began talks with Iraqi Foreign Ministry officials here Saturday, Iraqi officials said.

Professor Torken Opsahl of Norway, Maj. Gen. Rafael Vale-Huerta of Venezuela and Prof. Wolfram Kark of Austria arrived Friday night from Geneva for a six-day visit during which they will tour camps for Iranian prisoners, they said.

The mission will also make a six-day visit to Iran to inspect prisoner-of-war camps there before reporting back to U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The team was formed last November after an incident in a camp in Iran in which a number of Iraqi prisoners were killed or wounded. Meanwhile Baghdad's government-run press said Saturday the increased Iraqi attacks this year on shipping in the Gulf reflected fresh determination to tighten the blockade on Iran's oil exports from Kharg Island.

Iraq says it has struck at eight "naval targets" in the strategic waterway this year, compared with an average of less than one a week last year.

Only two ships have reported being hit since Jan. 1. But shipping sources in Bahrain Saturday said one of two attacks reported by the Baghdad military spokesman Friday was a near miss, by metres, on an unidentified vessel believed to be a tanker close to Kharg Island terminal.

Iraq's Al Jumhuriya daily said Saturday the attacks on ships using Kharg would continue "even if Gulf waters change into a graveyard for these targets."

And the ruling Ba'ath Party newspaper Al Thawra said Iran's rulers would be made to understand that a policy of war "would result in nothing but catastrophes and destruction."

"It said that 'Iraq has decided not to retreat or stop attacking this vital target (Kharg)... the Iraqi missiles will continue striking the oil tankers — and they are able to change Kharg to an island of blazing fire.'"

In Kuwait, a senior Gulf Arab official Saturday called on Iran to accept diplomatic efforts to end its 51-month-old war with Iraq.

The Gulf war had become "the prime concern of the Gulf states," said Abdullah Yacoub Bishara, secretary-general of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

The Gulf states are sparing no effort to stop the bloodshed in the region," he told reporters. "We call on Iran to accept an initiative to bring an end to the conflict."

Mr. Bishara said foreign ministers of the GCC, which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, would meet in March to assess the Gulf situation.

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

<div><div>JORDAN TELEVISION</div><div>MAIN CHANNEL</div><div><div>17:00.....Koran</div><div>17:10.....Cartoons</div><div>17:30.....Children's Programme</div><div>18:05.....That's Incredible</div><div>18:45.....Local Health and Life Programme</div><div>19:15.....Programmes Review</div><div>19:30.....News Programme</div><div>20:00.....News in Arabic</div><div>20:30.....Arabic Series</div><div>21:15.....Tomorrow's Programme</div><div>21:30.....A documentary on Islamic cultural and technological influence in Europe</div><div>22:20.....Local Varieties</div><div>23:00.....News in Arabic</div></div><div><div>FOREIGN CHANNEL</div><div><div>18:00.....French Programme: Michel Sardou</div><div>19:00.....News in French</div><div>19:15.....Varieties</div><div>19:30.....News in Hebrew</div><div>19:45.....News in Arabic</div><div>20:00.....News in Arabic</div><div>20:30.....Don't Wait Up</div><div>21:10.....The Making of the Continent</div><div>22:00.....News in English</div><div>22:15.....Remington Steele</div></div></div><div><div>RADIO JORDAN</div><div>855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.60 KHz. SW</div><div><div>07:00.....Light Music</div><div>07:30.....Newsweek</div><div>08:00.....Morning Show</div><div>08:30.....News Summary</div><div>09:00.....Morning Show</div><div>10:00.....Pop Session</div><div>10:30.....News Summary</div><div>10:45.....Pop Session</div><div>11:00.....News Bulletin</div><div>11:30.....News Summary</div><div>11:45.....News Bulletin</div><div>12:00.....News Summary</div><div>12:15.....News Bulletin</div><div>12:30.....News Summary</div><div>12:45.....News Bulletin</div><div>13:00.....News Summary</div><div>13:15.....News Bulletin</div><div>13:30.....News Summary</div><div>13:45.....News Bulletin</div><div>14:00.....News Summary</div><div>14:15.....News Bulletin</div><div>14:30.....News Summary</div><div>14:45.....News Bulletin</div><div>15:00.....News Summary</div><div>15:15.....News Bulletin</div><div>15:30.....News Summary</div><div>15:45.....News Bulletin</div><div>16:00.....News Summary</div><div>16:15.....News Bulletin</div><div>16:30.....News 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Bulletin</div><div>24:00.....News Headlines</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>BBC WORLD SERVICE</div><div>630, 720, 1413 KHz</div><div><div>06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Joke Box Duty 06:45 Financial Review 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:20 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Good Books 07:45 Letter from America 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Jazz for the Asking 08:50 World News 09:00 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 From Our Own Correspondent 09:50 Letter from London 10:00 World News 10:09 Religion 10:15 The Pleasure's Yours 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 Sports Review 11:45 Behind the Universe 12:00 News Summary: Short Story 12:15 Classical Record Review 12:30 Religious Service 13:00 World News 13:09 News About Britain 13:15 From Our Own Correspondent 13:30 Baker's Half Doren 14:00 News Summary: Play of the Week 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 The Hitch-Hiker 15:45 The Sandi Jones Request Show 16:30 Classical Service 16:45 World News 16:59 Meridian 17:00 Newsweek 17:15 Concert Hall 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 Church and State 18:45 Letter from America 19:00 World News 19:09 Meridian 19:40 Reflections 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Mainstream 21:00 News Summary 21:15 In The Psychiatrist's Chair 22:00 World News 22:09 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Sunday Half-Hour 23:00 News Summary 23:15 The Pleasure's Yours 24:00 World News 00:09 Talk 00:25 World 00:30 Financial Review 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News: Commentary 01:15 Letter from America 01:30 Plato to Nato</div></div></div> <div><div>VOICE OF AMERICA</div><div>MW 1260, KHz. 7200, 9265, 11740, 11925 & 15210</div><div><div>06:00 VOA Morning: News, Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listeners' Questions, Science Digest, Sports News at 30 minutes past the hour. 06:15 Focus 17:00 News 17:10 New Horizons and New Products 17:30 Music USA 18:00 News 18:10 International Viewpoints 18:30 Special English News and Features 19:00 News 19:10 Critical's Choice 19:30 Issues in the News 20:00 News 20:10 Focus 20:30 Special English News and Features 21:00 News 21:10 Sunday Report 21:30 Music USA 22:00 News and Editorial 22:15 Concert Hall 23:00 News 23:10 New Horizons and New Products 23:30 Studio One</div></div></div>	<div><div>TODAY'S EVENTS</div><div><div>EXHIBITION</div><div>* An art exhibition of oil paintings by Naval Radi Al Abdulla at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Jan. 16).</div></div><div><div>BAZAAR</div><div>* Princess Sarvath will open a charity bazaar at 11:00 a.m. Sunday at Sarvath Community Centre in Sweileh.</div></div><div><div>CULTURAL CENTRES</div><div>Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267 American Centre 44371 British Council 36147-4 French Cultural Centre 37009 Goethe Institute 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre 44203 Spanish Cultural Centre 24049 Turkish Cultural Centre 39777 Haya Arts Centre 665195 Hussein Youth City 667181 Y.W.C.A. 41793 Y.W.M.C.A. 664251 Amman Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 843555</div></div><div><div>MUSEUMS</div><div>Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman, Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qaf'a (Circled Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luvibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128. Martyr's Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.</div></div></div> <div><div>SERVICE CLUBS</div><div>Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m. Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.</div></div> <div><div>CHURCHES</div><div>St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luvibdeh, 37440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 25383. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 713261. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 717151. Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsi, 816534.</div></div> <div><div>PRAYER TIMES</div><div>06:04 Fajr 06:29 Sunrise (Sharaf) Dula 11:49 Dhuhur 14:49 'Asr 17:11 Maghreb 18:36 Isha</div></div>	<div><div>AMMAN AIRPORT</div><div>This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (06) 53250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where a should always be verified.</div></div> <div><div>MARITIME TRAFFIC</div><div>Regular-line ships docking at 'Aqaba port: — Aleksa Dundic — Golden Bangkok — Hunt Trader — Kaitana — Aboudy — Arius — Lides — Kona Agung — Jolly Nero — Ville du Levant</div></div> <div><div>ARRIVALS</div><div>09:30 Aqaba (RJ) 09:45 Cairo (RJ) 09:45 Kuwait (RJ) 09:45 Jeddah (RJ) 09:45 Berlin, Larnaca (IF) 10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ) 10:30 Beirut (RJ) 10:35 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV) 14:30 Tripoli, Larnaca (LN) 14:40 Kuwait (KU) 16:45 Cairo, Aqaba (RJ) 17:35 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ) 17:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) 17:55 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ) 18:00 London (RJ) 18:00 Paris, Rome (RJ) 19:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ) 19:25 Beirut (MEA) 20:40 London (BA) 22:20 Cairo (MS) 01:10 Baghdad (RJ)</div></div> <div><div>DEPARTURES</div><div>06:50 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH) 07:00 Beirut (RJ) 07:15 Aqaba (RJ) 08:00 Damascus, Paris (AF) 08:45 Beirut (MEA) 09:00 Damascus, Rome (AZ) 11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ) 11:45 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) 12:15 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV) 15:30 Larnaca, Tripoli (LN) 15:40 Kuwait (KU) 19:30 Damascus, Larnaca (RJ) 19:30 Kuwait (RJ) 19:40 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 20:00 Dhahran (RJ) 20:00 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) 20:30 Dubai (RJ) 20:45 Cairo (RJ) 21:00 Abu Dhabi, Singapore (RJ) 21:10 Baghdad (RJ) 22:00 Baghdad, London (BA) 22:20 Bangkok (RJ) 23:20 Cairo (MS) 00:45 Larnaca, Berlin (IF)</div></div> <div><div>MONEY EXCHANGE</div><div>Local sell/buy rates in fils Belgian franc 64.1/ 64.4 Dutch guilder 114/ 114.7 Egyptian guinea 302.8/ 307.6 French franc 42/ 42.3 Iraqi dinar 344.3/ 351.6 Italian lire (for 100) 20.8/ 21 Japanese yen (for 100) 159.6/ 160.5 Kuwaiti dinar 1325/ 1330.6 Lebanese lira 43.1/ 44.6 Omani riyal 1166/ 1173.5 Qatari riyal 110.8/ 111.5 Saudi riyal 113.5/ 113.8 Swedish crown 44.9/ 45.1 Swiss franc 153.6/ 154.5 Syrian lira 38.4/ 39.8 UAE dirham 110/ 110.6 U.K. sterling pound 463.5/ 466.3 U.S. dollar 405/ 407 W. German mark 128.8/ 129.5</div></div> <div><div>WEATHER</div><div>Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be partly cloudy, with chances for scattered showers. Light to variable winds will become westerly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy, with northerly moderate winds and seas calm. Low/high temperature in deg. C. Amman 8/15 Aqaba 12/20 Deserts 8/16 Jordan Valley 11/19 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 17, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 65 per cent, Aqaba 80 per cent.</div></div>	<div><div>EMERGENCIES</div><div>Ambulance 193, 775111 First aid, fire, police 199 Blood bank 775121 Civil Defence rescue 661111 Fire headquarters 22000-3 Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777 Police headquarters 39141 Traffic police 56390-1 Electric Power Co. 56381-2 Municipal water service 77125-8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (06) 53333</div></div> <div><div>HOSPITALS</div><div>Hussein Medical Centre 81381-32 Khadiji Maternity, J. Amn 44281-4 Akhil Maternity, J. Amman 42441 Jabal Amman Maternity 42362 Malhas, J. Amman 36140 Palestine, Shamsi 664171-4 Shamsi Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158 Al-Munasher Hospital 667227-9 The Islamic, Abdali 665292 Al-Ahl, Abdali 664164 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 77701-3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111 Army, Marka 91611</div></div> <div><div>NIGHT DUTY</div><div>AMMAN: Dr. Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf 22520</div></div> <div><div>MARKET PRICES</div><div>Upperflower price in fils per kg. Apple (double red) 240 / 180 Apple (golden) 240 / 180 Apple (markon) 240 / 180 Banana 280 / 240 Banana (Muntazhar) 240 / 210 Beans 360 / 300 Broad beans 700 / 600 Cabbage 120 / 90 Chestnut 640 / 580 Carrot (yellow) 120 / 90 Carrot (black) 140 / 100 Cauliflower 180 / 140 Cucumber (large) 200 / 150 Cucumber (small) 410 / 350 Eggplant (large) 140 / 110 Eggplant (small) 150 / 120 Garlic 170 / 140 Grapefruit 130 / 100 Lemon 130 / 100 Lettuce (per one) 120 / 90 Mallow 280 / 220 Mint 190 / 160 Mint (large) 120 / 100 Mint (small) 210 / 170 Mint (very small) 210 / 170 Onion (dry) 150 / 120 Onion (green) 140 / 100 Okra 650 / 550 Oranges (Abo Surra) 240 / 180 Oranges (Shammout) 180 / 150 Parsley 80 / 80 Peas (American) 210 / 140 Pepper (sweet) 340 / 280 Pepper (hot green) 320 / 280 Potatoes (local) 210 / 170 Radishes 90 / 60 Spinach 120 / 90 Tomatoes 200 / 130 Turnip 130 / 100</div></div> <div><div>GENERAL</div><div>Jordan Television 773111 Radio Jordan 774111 Ministry of Tourism 4215 Hotel complaints 666412 Price complaints 661176 Telephone: Jordan and Middle East calls 12 Overseas calls 17 Cable or telegram 17 Repair service 11</div></div> <div><div>TAXIS:</div><div>Vincis taxi 44584 Milly taxi 44574 Shamsi taxi 66529 Asem taxi 844503 Jordan taxi 23300 Amman taxi 51424</div></div> <div><div>IRBID</div><div>Dr. Hameed Asaqi (—) Al Shari pharmacy 75825</div></div> <div><div>ZARQA:</div><div>Dr. Bashir Shajrawi 983038 Al Adham pharmacy (—)</div></div>
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Ministry starts energy saving campaign

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has begun a campaign to guide Jordanian citizens about economising their consumption of energy as part of a national rationalisation programme. The ministry started its campaign through local newspapers to be followed later by the use of Jordan Television. This will be followed by the printing and distribution of posters, books and video films to be used in schools, social societies and clubs.

WHO delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation of experts from the advisory committee of the World Health Organisation (WHO) arrived here Saturday on a visit to Jordan lasting several days. The delegation will hold talks with Jordanian officials from the Ministry of Health concerning health services in Jordan's hospitals. The delegation, who are here on an invitation from the Ministry of Health, will also visit a number of health centres and hospitals.

Ajlouni to attend health ministers' talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Health has decided to take part in the 40th session meetings of the Arab health ministers council, scheduled to be held in Qatar on Jan. 24 with a delegation to be led by Minister of Health Kamel Al Ajlouni. On the agenda of the two-day meeting are a Jordanian working paper, the health situation in the occupied West Bank, support of health services to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, training programmes in preventive research for Arab doctors as well as the council's prizes for research in health sciences.

Teacher murders colleague

TAFLAH (J.T.) — A 30-year-old teacher was murdered Friday while driving his car in the main street of Tafelah. A colleague who worked with the deceased at Ain Albida high school of Tafelah followed him in another car and fired several shots of his revolver. The victim died immediately. Police have apprehended the killer and started investigations.

PTC plans to buy new buses

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Transport Corporation (PTC) plans to purchase new buses at a cost of JD 3.25 million, according to PTC Director General Ibrahim Mahadin. He told the Arabic Daily Al Ra'i that the PTC will also introduce improvements to the bus services such as installing radio communications and using computers to facilitate work. The PTC has drawn up a five-year plan which will cost JD 4.7 million to implement.

JEA completes electrification study

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Planning Department has completed the rural electrification study under which 42 new villages, inhabited by 11,000 people, will be supplied with electricity in Karak, Tafelah, Aqaba and Ma'an regions. Work on the project is expected to start this month with a total cost of about JD 2 million.

CRD delegation registers 7,500 Jordanian families in Kuwait

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Civil Registration Department (CRD) returned to Amman Saturday at the end of a two-month visit to Kuwait. The delegation registered Jordanians living in Kuwait and issued them with family identity cards and personal identity cards, according to delegation member and legal adviser at the CRD, Mr. Ziyad Al Sharari.

Lebanon sends army to south

(Continued from page 1)

Army units also drove to the villages of Wadi Zeini and Shihm in the hills overlooking the 35-kilometre coastal highway, state radio reported.

On the road through Damour, militiamen stood on both sides of the highway watching as the troops moved. Farther south, a "Lebanese Forces" militiaman who identified himself as Hani said that "all the road is free" to Israeli posts at the Awali River.

Authoritative government sources told Reuters Friday the army would engage Israeli troops venturing north of the Awali. "Everyone has the right to defend themselves on their own territory," they said.

The army deployment coincided with a reshuffle of senior government posts announced by Prime Minister Rashid Karami after a cabinet meeting.

Edward Naim, a Maronite Christian law professor, replaces Michel Khoury as governor of the Central Bank. Michel Samaha, a Greek Catholic who is among President Amin Gemayel's closest advisers, becomes chairman of state-run television.

Ayyoub Humayyed, the Shi'ite

Amal official, was appointed director-general of the information ministry.

Mr. Karami said the cabinet had set up a committee to consider how to deal with Lebanon's economic crisis. Former Finance Minister Elias Saba told Reuters Friday that government finances, the national currency and banking system were in danger of collapse.

He said the crisis was beyond the government's control. Cabinet decisions are not going to make any difference one way or another.

Mr. Karami said the cabinet was briefed on Saturday's troop deployment and had given the army's military council a week to report on a plan to establish army control of the coast road from Beirut north towards the port of Tripoli.

It would also consider how to reopen the main Damascus highway, closed since September 1983, he said.

Sending troops south from Beirut is a major boost for the government and, if Israel agrees to resume troop withdrawal talks it broke off last Monday, still strengthens its case that the army can effectively control South Lebanon after Israeli troops leave.

Luce voices concern over Gulf

(Continued from page 1)

dence immediately," he said.

The minister said he was pessimistic about a near solution to the conflict, but he expressed satisfaction with resolutions reached by foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Gulf Cooperation Council last November which called for peaceful moves to end it.

On the Middle East situation, Mr. Luce said Britain was closely following moves by Jordan in the search for a solution to the Palestinian problem.

"The lack of a settlement is extremely dangerous and there is an urgent desire to find a settlement. What King Hussein is doing is important... but whether Israel gives priority to peace with its neighbours remains the question," he

said. Mr. Luce said he would leave for Oman Sunday on a similar three-day visit and then return to London.

British Embassy sources in Muscat said the visit was a follow-up to regular meetings of the Omani-British commission which regulates and promotes trade relations between the two countries.

The Associated Press adds: Mr. Luce, who arrived in Bahrain Thursday on a three-day visit, was received by Sheikh Isa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa, with Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa, Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak and Interior Minister Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Khalifa attending.

Zaben, Klibi discuss Arab satellite

TUNIS (Petra) — Minister of Communications Mohammad Al Zaben, currently on a four-day visit to Tunis Friday, discussed with Arab League Secretary General Chadli Al Klibi the projected Arab satellite due to be launched on Feb. 8 and the services which will this satellite offer for joint Arab action.

In a statement following the meeting, Dr. Zaben said that Arab communications ministers and Mr. Klibi will proceed to the French colony of Guyana in South America to watch the launching of the Arab satellite.

Dr. Zaben is chairman of the General Assembly of the Arab Satellite Communications Organisation (ARASAT).

Dr. Zaben is also expected to meet with his Tunisian counterpart to discuss ways to promote cooperation in telecommunications between Tunisia and Jordan.

Technical team reviews solar energy usage

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM) technical committee Saturday opened a two day meeting at the organisation's headquarters in Amman.

At the meeting the committee which is entrusted with tackling solar energy and its application to various fields, discussed the endorsement of specifications and standards for Arab solar energy projects, according to Dr. Mahdi Hannoush, the AOSM's director general.

In his speech to the meeting's opening session, Dr. Hannoush underlined the importance of solar energy for the Arab World as an alternative to oil and gas. He said that the world's reserves of oil will end within 100 years while coal reserves will not last more than 400 years but solar energy can last for ever.

Dr. Hannoush said that all efforts should be exerted to exploit solar power for technology, industry and other fields. This has to be done since the whole world is now seeking alternative sources of energy despite the fact that the Arab World still possesses large deposits of oil. Dr. Hannoush added, he called on the committee to draw up standard specifications for the use of solar energy to benefit all Arab countries.

Delegates from Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia and Morocco are on the committee.

Green roadsides planned for Irbid

IRBID (Petra) — Programmes have been drawn up for planting forest trees along roadsides in Irbid Governorate. The Irbid agriculture department, in cooperation with the education department, public works department, Yarmouk University, community colleges and the Jordan Armed Forces, will be taking part in carrying out these programmes.

Water, sewerage projects planned as part of Irbid's 1985 development plan

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

IRBID — At last, Irbid will have its own sewers and digging for the project is due to start next month. According to Irbid Mayor Abdul Razzak Tubeishat preparations have been completed and work will go on as scheduled. Also in the coming month work will begin on laying a new water network for Irbid to replace the existing old one which has become worn out, the mayor said.

The final stages for a new water project have been finalised and water to Irbid will be drawn from Wadi Al Arab, a distance of 24 kilometres, Dr. Tubeishat added. He said that the project also entails setting up three pumping stations and a purification plant and water tower with a 110,000 cubic

Jordan to present working papers on Palestinian refugees at Tunis talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian delegation to the general conference of Arab states hosting Palestinian refugees, due to start in Tunis on Monday, will submit three working papers dealing with various issues, according to Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs Assistant Under-Secretary Osama Tabboub.

Mr. Tabboub, who will head the Jordanian delegation to the conference, said that the three Jordanian working papers will deal with the Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and the dan-

gers they present, the deteriorating conditions of refugee camps in the Gaza Strip as well as Israel's demolishing of houses in the Gaza Strip camps.

He added that the week-long conference will discuss the Israeli projects for removing refugee camps from their present sites on the occupied Arab territories, the recurrent deficit in the budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) in addition to other topics on its agenda.

The conference will also tackle

the problem faced by Palestinians in their movement through and employment in Arab countries as well as the subject of Israel's nuclear activities.

The conference's resolutions and recommendations will be referred to the Arab League Council which will convene in Tunis in March. Jordan, Palestine, Syria and Lebanon in addition to the Arab League Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ALESCO) will attend the conference.

Anani outlines new drive to reduce imports, boost exports, agriculture

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan will this year reduce its imports and increase its exports in a drive to make available \$400 to \$500 million to offset the adverse effects on the national economy by foreign influences and factors, Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani has been quoted as saying.

In an interview published by the local press, the minister said that the adverse influences on Jordan's economy began to affect the country at a time when the national industries reached the stage of maturity and full production.

This is what we call bad luck because we had made sure that our plans and programmes of production were perfect and one hundred per cent sound, the minister said.

He said that Jordan invested millions of dinars in major industrial projects like cement, the potash and fertilisers and expanded its phosphates production. "These projects should provide half of Jordan's total exports, but unfortunately a drop in prices occurred on the international markets and the price of raw materials rose which made it impossible for us to market the products as planned," Dr. Anani said.

The minister stressed the need to increase exports and pointed out that last year's exports reached \$230 million and this year's target is \$1,000 million. At least we should secure \$250 million worth of hard currency for the treasury this year, Dr. Anani said.

Trade agreements

For this to happen, Dr. Anani

added, Jordan has signed an agreement with Iraq for selling national products in exchange for crude oil and Jordan also expects its exports to Egypt this year to reach \$75 million instead of \$10 million in 1984. Most of Jordan's exports to these countries will be cement, building materials, refrigerators, washing machines and electrical appliances, the minister pointed out.

He said that Jordan's potash production is expected to increase this year from 450,000 to 800,000 tonnes while phosphate production will rise from 4.8 million to 5.7 million tonnes and fertilisers will reach 700,000 tonnes to make it possible for the export of two million tonnes. There is a good chance of exporting this much because Jordan had signed new agreements with a number of nations to sell its fertilisers, the minister added.

On the domestic front, the government will facilitate the marketing of national products locally by increasing customs duty on imported products similar to our own and will prohibit the importation of certain goods. There are also plans for awarding all tenders to local contractors to save money, the minister said.

All these measures, he said, are bound to increase the sale of Jordan's local products in the Jordanian market at a rate between JD 70 to JD 80 million over last year's figures.

Agriculture, tourism

The aim of increasing exports and reducing imports should go hand in hand with plans to increase and promote agriculture and tourism, the minister said. According to



Jawad Al Anani

According to Dr. Anani nearly 300,000 Jordanians visited Greece and Cyprus, among other countries in the holidays of 1984 and spent millions of dinars on their vacation. Instead, he said, plans should focus on encouraging domestic tourism and promoting the marketing of Jordan's tourism abroad to attract foreign visitors to Jordan's tourist and archaeological sites.

In agriculture the minister suggested that new lands should be reclaimed and more efforts should be made to grow cereals. He said that Jordan normally imports wheat worth JD 80 million a year and JD 25 million worth of meat and fish.

The minister said "there should be a rationalisation of consumption of food and energy and we should rely more and more on our local products." He said "through rationalisation of energy we can cut our bill by \$50 to \$70 million annually and we can give the surplus energy produced, especially electric power, to regions which have not yet been supplied with power. In times of difficulty, austerity measures become a welcome measure, but the most important thing, however, is for the public to respond favourably to government measures." Dr. Anani added.

New members appointed to Jordanian Arabic Academy

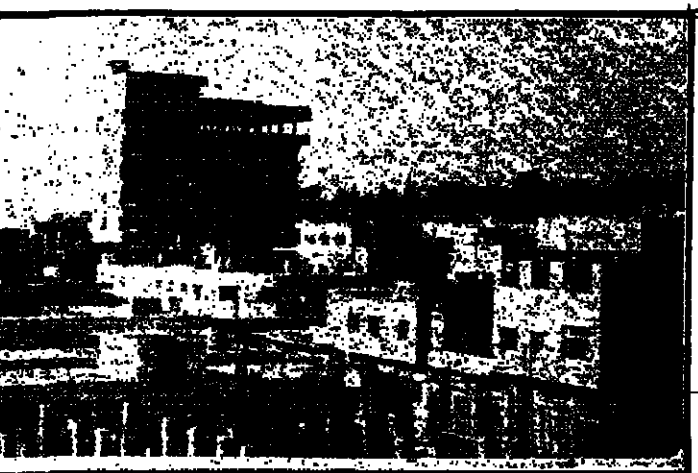
AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Saturday appointing the following as members of the Jordanian Academy of Arabic: Dr. Ibrahim Badran and Dr. Hamman Bisharah Ghasib.

The Ministry of Education has appointed the following as honorary members of the academy: Dr. Mahdi Alam from the Cairo Academy, Mr. Abbas Haron of the Cairo Academy, Dr. Shakir Alfaham of the Damascus Academy, Dr. Ali Abdullah of the Saudi University of Minerals and

Petroleum, Dr. Mohammad Qadrah of Syria and Spanish orientalist Jesus Rio Saldo.

The academy will hold its third annual session in April this year under the theme "Arab Scientific Heritage and Modern Life". Lectures will focus on natural sciences, maths, astrology and Islamic architecture.

The academy also decided to form a fund for furthering scientific writing and research in the Arabic language. A committee from the members of the academy was formed to supervise the fund.



A view of the construction and development in Irbid (Al Ra'i photo)

Ministry, unions to study proposed labour law changes

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Secretary General of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) Samir Qardan said Saturday that Minister of Labour Tayseer Abdul Jaber has promised the FJLU representatives that he will consider their reservations about the new amendment to the Jordanian labour law and that the Ministry of Labour will study the project with the FJLU before the final endorsement is made at the parliament.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Qardan said that the FJLU, together with the minister of labour, agreed to exert further efforts to advance the labour movement in the Kingdom.

The Ministry of Labour has recently drawn up a new amendment to the Jordanian labour law which was passed in 1952.

The amendment, which is on its way to the legislative authorities for final approval, stipulates several articles which do not meet with the workers' demands and their rights to have a decent life and the amendment also skips changes such as working hours, the age of retirement, social security for the workers and the right for foreign workers to join the Jordanian labour unions, according to some labour unionists.

Some heads of labour unions have sent requests to Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat and the speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament asking them to reconsider the situation and to delay the discussions of the labour law project. Some leaders said that the text of the law is disappointing to the labour movement's ambitions and violates the rights and freedom of the trade unions, which was provided for in Arab and international agreements, charters and forms.

Mr. Abdul Halim Khaddam, chairman of the central council of the FJLU had earlier said that the Ministry of Labour, when it was drafting the new amendment, did not consult the unions which are supposed to send representatives to take part in any step taken concerning the labour movement in Jordan.

JWF president asks societies to prepare studies on women

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Women's Federation (JWF) President Haifa Al Bashir Saturday urged Jordanian voluntary and charitable societies to prepare studies on women's activities in Jordan over the past decade to be submitted to the Nairobi women's conference, scheduled to be held in July.

Mrs. Bashir was speaking at a meeting attended by representatives of charitable societies affiliated to the federation in the Amman region. She spoke about preparations for the Nairobi international conference and said that documentary films and research papers will be presented to the conference to highlight women's activities and their role in development.

Regarding the objectives of the conference, Mrs. Bashir said that it aims to exchange information about the role of women around the world and the level of coordination achieved amongst them through cooperation with international organisations, in solving social and economic problems.

When the Nairobi conference is in session, the JWF will hold a parallel conference in Amman in which all Jordanian voluntary and women's societies will take part. The delegates to the Amman conference will submit working papers on their role and activities in social and economic fields, Mrs. Bashir added.

Joint economic meeting to be held in Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian-Iraqi joint economic committee will open meetings in Baghdad on January 19. The Jordanian side will be headed by Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani.

Yarmouk University plans ahead

By Simonetta Carr
Special to the Jordan Times

IRBID — Since its first academic year 1976-77, the Yarmouk University in Irbid has been witnessing a continuous and steady progress, reaching today the same proportions as the University of Jordan in Amman. In fact, although the number of faculties at Yarmouk is smaller, eight at present, the number of students is equal to or slightly larger than the University of Jordan. This year, a total of 3,003 students enrolled at the Yarmouk University, 561 of which were graduates.

Located in the midst of a thickly populated area and on crossroads linking all the cities of the country together and at no more than 10 kilometres from the border with Syria, Yarmouk University receives the majority of its students from Irbid, followed in order of numbers by Amman and Nablus, with minorities from Jerusalem, Balqa, Karak, Al-Khalil, Maan, and other cities in Jordan and abroad.

New campus

The University is, however,

preparing to move its main campus to a much larger site in the same vicinity; the new site will cover an area of 2,600 acres. The construction of the infrastructure of this main campus was started in September 1981 by an international firm and the installations are expected to be completed within less than seven years from now.

The first faculty to be moved to the new campus will be the Faculty of Engineering, some time during the next year. The construction of the buildings for this faculty was started at the beginning of August by an Arab international firm. The faculty is one of the youngest at the university, having been established in 1980 and opened to the students the same year. Last year, the university had its first graduates from this Faculty.

Even more recent are the Faculties of Medical Sciences, which were established in 1981, but only opened to the students this year. These faculties include: The Faculty of Medicine, which had only 15 students this year; the Faculty of Dentistry also with 15 students; the Faculty of Nursing, with 25

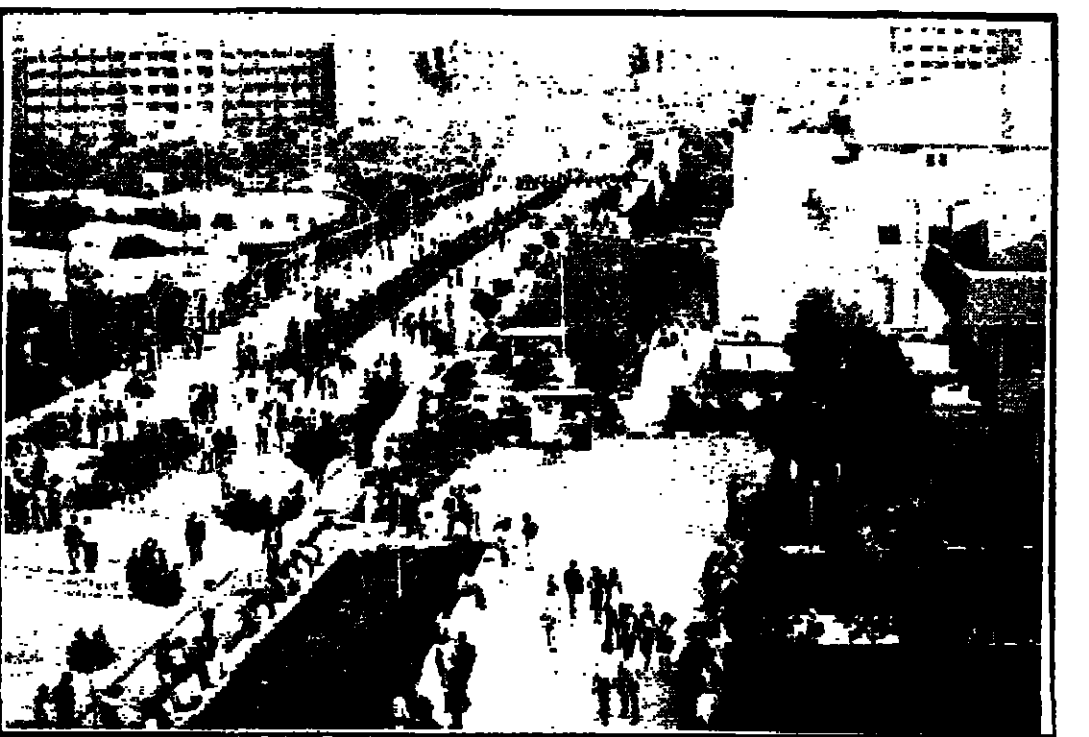
students; the Faculty of Pharmacy, with 40 students and the Faculty of Public Health with 75 students.

The next faculty to be opened will be the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, scheduled for next year. It will be opened in the new permanent site, including agricultural stations, experimental farms and greenhouses.

Hebrew centre

During this year, Yarmouk University has also witnessed the opening of a new centre, the Hebrew Centre, which was added to the already existent Jordanian Study Centre, the Language Centre, the Islamic Centre, and the Computer Centre. The Hebrew Centre opened only three months ago.

Upon the completion of the new campus, the present Irbid campus will still remain as an extension for the main campus that will provide trained manpower and community services in addition to evening courses and other training facilities.



The present Yarmouk University campus in Irbid (J.T. file photo)

Philanthropy is invention's midwife

IF WAR is the mother of invention, philanthropy can be its midwife. Consider the inception of Puff the Magic Dragon, one of the United States most devastating weapons during the Vietnam War. Mounted in the rear of an aircraft, within seconds the gun's lightning rate of fire could stitch a village to the pad ("nail Charlie to the slime") as was illustrated graphically in the film *The Green Berets*. Yet mercy brought it forth.

The weapon was developed in the U.S. Air Force Aerospace Medical Research Laboratory at Dayton, Ohio, where Professor Michael McCally was then a distinctly uneasy division chief. In London for a recent executive meeting of International Physicians Against Nuclear War, Prof. McCally explained how a good intention went lethally agley.

"I had a friend in the lab who was interested in rescuing downed pilots with fixed-wing aircraft. He remembered the old 'pylon' manoeuvre, where you point the wing of the plane at the ground so that you can hover in circles. The idea was that a man at the back would lower a rope attached to a mailbag. In another part of the lab, an engineer was looking at a

reinvention of the Gatling gun which could put out huge barrages of fire."

The two concepts were wedded, the "pylon" manoeuvre providing a stable platform for Puff. Deeming this to be an improper use of medical resources, Prof. McCally resigned.

The final straw was the discovery that, despite his security rating, he was denied access to work in the basement on laser weapons. Their basic purpose was to blind the operators of anti-aircraft guns. "Our \$7 million F-35s were being shot down with World War II ack-ack guns with a minimum of technology and a human operator. That was considered terribly bad form."

His involvement with the U.S. Air Force had begun innocently enough. Soon after being drafted in 1960, like many physicians he was seconded to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration moon mission. The air force laboratory at Dayton was already a centre of expertise. During World War II, it helped to design oxygen masks, heated flak suits and the gun turrets of Superfortresses.

After the war it was partly staffed with German medical sci-

entists who had been scooped up in America's Operation Paperclip, along with German aerospace blueprints. One of these, a super V2 developed under the name *Dinosaur*, was a forerunner of the Space Shuttle. "It had a one-way manned bomber in front, boosting a shuttle-like vehicle which was intended to bomb the United States."

Professor — then Captain — McCally's principal task was to investigate weightlessness, the effects of which were virtually unknown in 1961. He put people to bed for months, tested them in centrifuges and heat chambers, and simulated weightlessness in awkwardly angled aircraft. "Did you see the film *The Right Stuff*? Well, I was doing *The Right Stuff*."

These experiments prompted a close reading of the Nuremberg Trials transcripts. "We were looking for precedents," he explained. "We were using ourselves and co-workers as volunteers. That seemed all right, but there were no committees or procedures in those days."

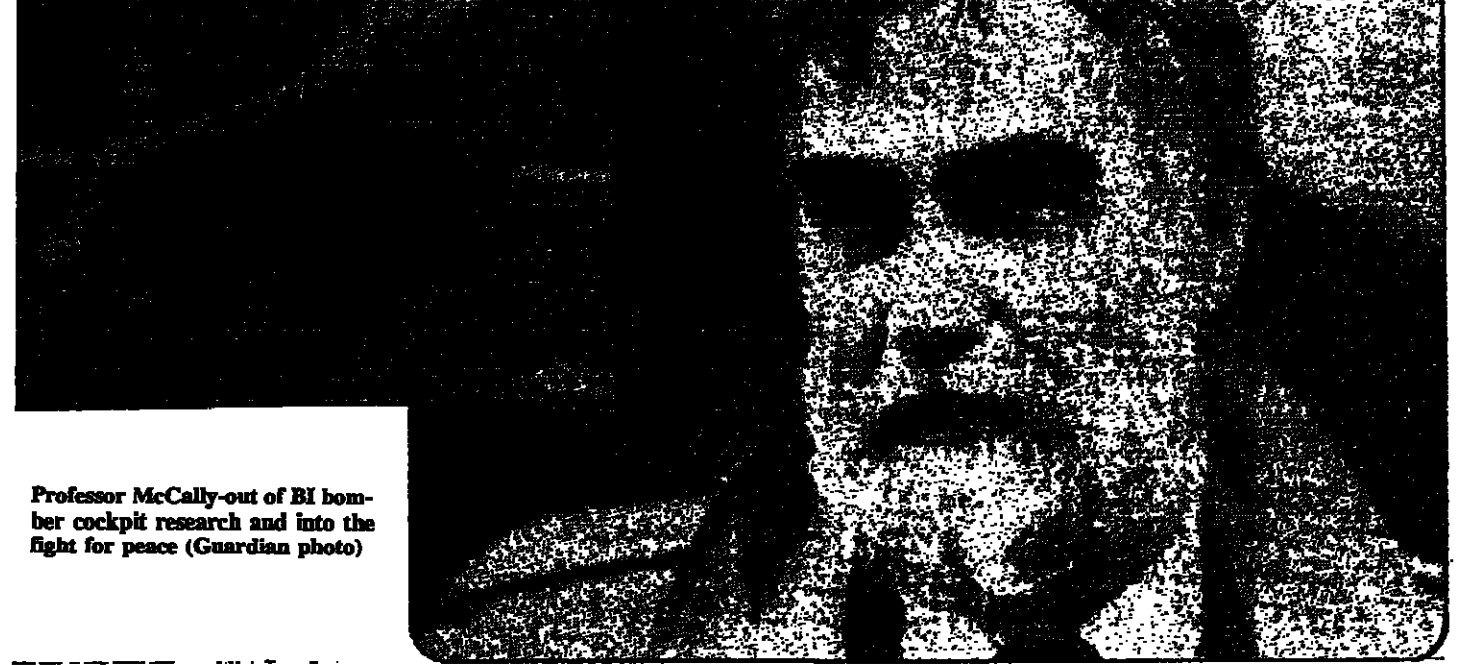
"A field of medical ethics has now grown up in the States, because of not war experiences but over such questions as with-

holding life support. There were atrocious experiments in the fifties and sixties that couldn't be done today — injecting live cancer cells into nursing home patients and withholding penicillin from black men with syphilis."

The Vietnam War forced him to draw the line. "It's a very grey line. We did cockpit design for what is now the B1 bomber. In that sense I did weapons development. The experience didn't make me a pacifist. I didn't feel it was the right role for a physician."

He is now professor of community medicine at New York's prestigious Mount Sinai medical school, where he augments his immunology courses by teaching military history and arms control. People must learn from history, he insists, pointing out that the current state of satellite weapons technology is equivalent to the infancy of multi-warhead missiles in 1968 — "a development that everyone now agrees should have been negotiated away."

He is not a unilateral disarmament, believing that the U.S. needs to maintain a credible nuclear deterrent. However his 10 years' experience of the military mind and weapons procurement makes him a useful voice in International



Professor McCally-out of BI bomber cockpit research and into the fight for peace (Guardian photo)

Physicians Against Nuclear War during its current offensive.

This year's \$1.6 billion research budget for Star Wars alarms him. "You could create a monster lobby in any industry if you put that amount of money in each year. These are not evil people, but they will spend it and we will end up with the hardware."

"Los Alamos was once a boys' school. Now it's a small city of 70,000 people who work for the weapons laboratory. Some of us went there a couple of years ago. We were not well received. But most of them are just doing a job. Their attitude is 'If we don't do it someone else will.'"

He believes American doctors

have injected a note of moral authority and urgency into the debate. Of 40,000 in the States, 25,000 belong to Physicians for Social Responsibility.

This summer he will visit China to promote the idea of a comprehensive test ban treaty. But talks and arms control are insufficient without a more positive

lead from Mr. Reagan, he says.

"We have to learn to control our technology. The most striking danger about Star Wars is that it will be totally computer controlled. There's no human in the loop; 90 per cent of the destruction has to be done in the lift-off phase. We are talking about 90 seconds." — The Guardian.

Bhopal gas leak may damage babies' brains, scientists say

By John Fullerton
Reuter

NEW DELHI — Poisonous gas which leaked from a union carbide pesticide factory in the central Indian city of Bhopal may have damaged the brains of unborn babies, a scientist was quoted Sunday as saying.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported that S.V. Chandra of the Indian Toxicological Research Centre said she was concerned at the possibility that the brains of embryos might have been damaged when pregnant mothers inhaled the methyl isocyanate fumes.

About 2,500 people were killed and 4,000 were badly-gassed when the gas leaked from the

plant and spread across residential areas of Bhopal on Dec. 3.

Ms. Chandra told a meeting of the Indian Science Congress at Lucknow that her centre would set up a laboratory in Bhopal to conduct a year-long study into the impact of the disaster, the world's worst industrial accident on record.

Scientist S. Beg was quoted by PTI as saying that only 15 of 85 types of vegetation studied in the area had not been affected by the gas.

Beg said most plants and trees affected by the gas had been discoloured, scorched or totally defoliated, PTI reported.

Dr. S. Varadarajan, scientific adviser to the government, told the meeting Saturday that water entering an underground storage

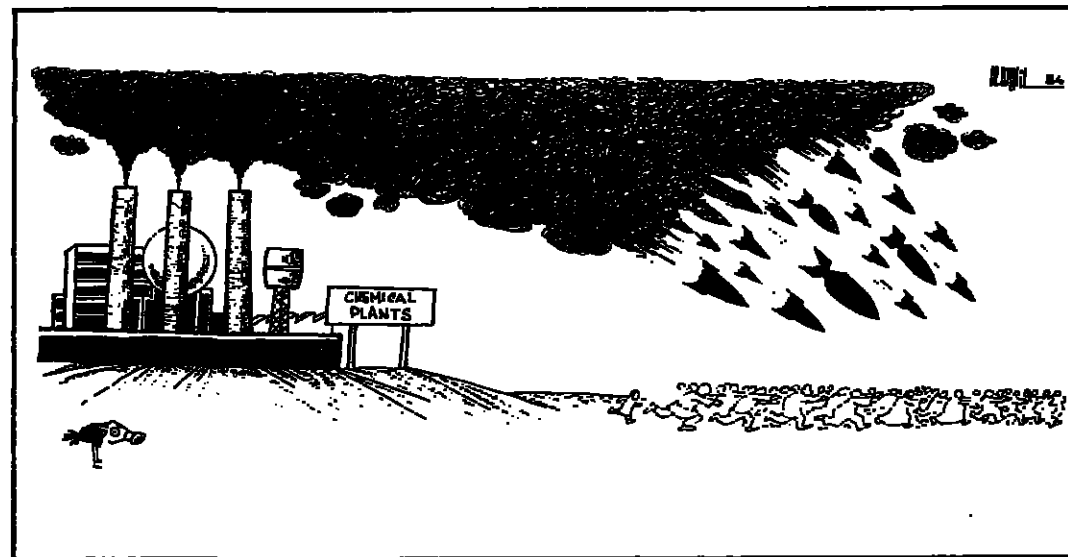
tank at the factory set off a runaway violent reaction in the poisonous substance stored there.

The tremendous heat generated by the reaction ruptured valves, allowing the gas to escape, Mr. Varadarajan said.

The factory is owned by the Indian subsidiary of the U.S. Union Carbide Company.

B.K. Roy, from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, said some wheat stored in Bhopal showed signs of damage, but it was not yet clear whether this was caused by the gas or by the storage process.

Botanist A.K. Sharma said possible genetic effects of the gas should be studied along the lines of research carried out into the impact of atomic bomb attacks on Japan in World War II.



Sudan out of the drought, into the big famine

Ethiopians fleeing drought in their country are finding drought in the Sudan. As refugee camps spring up quickly, national and UN organisations are finding it hard to get food to starving people.

By Wendy Wallace

TUKULUBAB, Eastern Sudan — Starving people are pouring into the Sudan from Ethiopia, fleeing the drought and famine there. They are finding more of the same here.

Some 12,000 people from Ethiopia's Tigray Region are gathered just a few kilometres inside Sudan, in an area called Tukulubab. They have arrived with nothing, and their only shelter is thorn bushes.

They are not fleeing the secessionist war in Tigray. One man kicked into the barren dust with his foot: "That is why we are leaving: our land is just like this desert."

(In Paris, the International Herald Tribune quoted relief workers and diplomats in the Sudan saying that the Ethiopian Air Force had bombed a group of Eritreans fleeing into Tukulubab, wounding about 50 people).

The refugees have found no relief at Tukulubab. It is an arid plain about 15 kilometres from the Sudanese town of Kassala. The mountains of Ethiopia are visible in the near distance. The refugees, who are farmers and nomad her-

ders, are malnourished, sick, and clothed in rags. Some have walked for six weeks to get to Sudan, begging for food on their way.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and voluntary agencies working in the area have begun to mobilise emergency aid. Two water tanker trucks deliver water daily to the site. Twenty-eight tankers would be needed to provide sufficient water for the people here, says Vincente Davide of UNHCR.

Some wheat flour and lentils are also being distributed. Asked how they are faring, mothers draw half-eaten loaves of bread out from under their clothes, to show what stands between them and starvation. Many hold wasted babies to empty breasts.

The Sudanese refugee administration is working to set up three official reception centres near the Rahad River. People from Tukulubab will be relocated as a matter of urgency, says Assistant Commissioner for Refugees for Kassala province, Mohammed Habib. But his administration is being overwhelmed. Another spontaneous settlement at Al Safawa contains 15,000 more Tig-

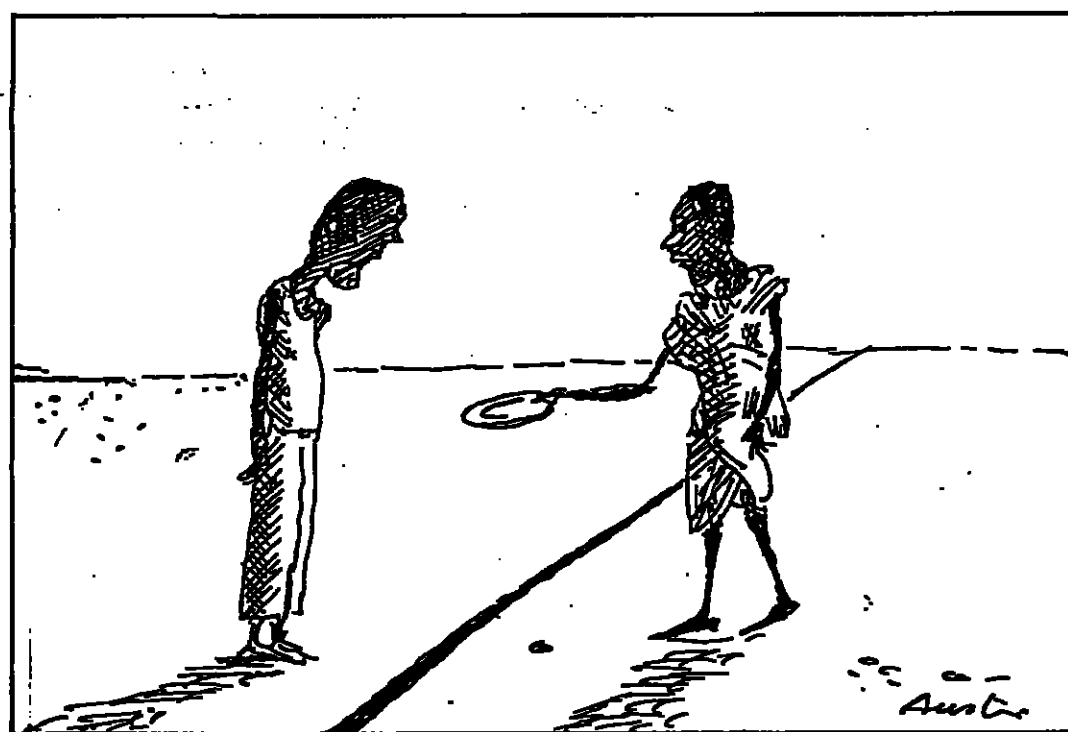
rayans. They are camped near the Atbara River, and have neither shelter, food nor medical services.

Three official reception centres in the Eastern region were causing concern to the authorities even before this month's influx. At Wad Sherif, 30,000 refugees are living in a camp planned for 5,000. Food stocks, water and health services are near the breaking point.

The refugees are fleeing one drought stricken land only to arrive in another. Patchy and low rainfall has caused 100 per cent crop failure this season in much of Sudan's Eastern region. Lack of grass and dried up water holes have taken a heavy toll on animal herds. Many areas are studded with their carcasses; camels sell for one-tenth of their price earlier this year.

Most of the 120,000 Ethiopian refugees already living in rural settlements in Sudan had attained a degree of self-sufficiency, usually growing enough sorghum to feed themselves. This year their farms stand desolate and empty. Thousands of hectares planted a few months ago have yielded nothing. Now all settlements need food aid to cover 100 per cent of need, says Ted Horton of the World Food Programme (WFP).

Given that they must supply both the established refugees and the herds of new arrivals, the



problem facing UNHCR and the Commissioner for Refugees office is how to get enough food into the area, in time. They cannot make big purchases on the local market, because this would further inflate the price of sorghum, depriving the Sudanese of food.

WFP procedures do not allow for speedy importation of food; new supplies will not arrive until mid February. UNHCR plans to import emergency supplies of grain through nearby Port Sudan on the Red Sea coast. WFP's Ted Horton used a Sudanese saying to

describe the food situation facing refugees: "If the blanket is too small, and you pull it over your feet, your head will be showing."

Finding enough food to keep both the settled and newly arrived refugees alive is a problem that will not quickly go away. The Relief Society of Tigray warns that there are 40,000 people poised on the border, waiting to enter Sudan. They claim that food aid in Ethiopia is being withheld from Tigrayan peasants living in areas controlled by the Tigrayan Peo-

ple's Liberation Front. "It is impossible to know how many more will come," states Mohammed Habib, Sudan's Commissioner for Refugees office.

Three new reception centres for refugees are planned for the Rahad area, but they will support only 60,000. Thousands will be condemned to spend an indefinite period in sites such as Tukulubab. Whether they can survive is at the moment an open question — Earthscan feature.

Gas disaster tests W. Virginian's loyalty

Institute, West Virginia, is a company town. But when the company is Union Carbide, and its plant produces the same chemical that killed more than 2,000 people in India, it is not surprising that local feelings are mixed. Paul Taylor reports on a visit to the town.

INSTITUTE, West Virginia — The poster at the plant entrance reads "people are our most important asset... their safety and health our greatest responsibility."

The accident log on the same poster at the entrance of Union Carbide's Institute, West Virginia, plant bears out the chemical company's reputation as one of the safest industrial employers in the U.S.

But a few yards away an American flag flutters, almost patriotically, at half mast in honour of at least 2,000 dead and another 20,000 injured in the world's worst ever industrial disaster in Bhopal, India.

The two symbols graphically illustrate the dilemma faced by the third largest chemical producer in the U.S. — and by Institute's small, but increasingly concerned, population.

Union Carbide's 1,435-acre Institute plant has been producing the lethal chemical, methyl isocyanate (MIC), for 17 years in volumes 10 times as large as the Bhopal plant. It is, by some accounts, Bhopal's "sister plant" on a big scale.

The plant and half a dozen like it in the valley provide thousands of jobs for West Virginians and millions of dollars in tax revenues. Balanced against that is the air, which is acrid and nauseating on a cloudy day, the occasional chemical releases, the evacuation notices, health risks and the constant threat of something much worse.

Over the past few years, concern among residents of the valley has been intensified by a state-imposed fine on Union Carbide for illegally burning toxic wastes at another local plant and by state studies which have suggested that substantial amounts of potentially cancer-causing chemicals are being released into the air by local companies. The Bhopal disaster has served to heighten this deep-seated fear.

Union Carbide's agricultural products division Institute plant, about eight miles west of Charleston, the state capital, is just one of a number of chemical plants in the valley.

Union Carbide itself employs about 7,000 workers in several plants. Together, the chemicals industry provides 10,300 of 16,000 manufacturing jobs in the region. By some estimates the chemicals industry provides more than 50 per cent of total employment in the valley.

Certainly the industry is still a major provider and, as such, many "old timers" are reluctant to criticise it publicly. The manager of the local pizza cafe explains, "I have lived here all my life. I worked at FMC and my father worked for Union Carbide. Is it a problem? No."

West Virginia State College, with up to 5,000 students, is within a few hundred yards of the plant's main gate. Next door is a graduate college with another 4,000 registered students and up the road a mile is West Virginia's police academy.

Ten days after Bhopal, there are grumblings among the students, many of whom say they will leave the valley as soon as possible although the vast majority were born here.

Mr. Perry Bryant, Environmental coordinator for the East Virginia Citizens' Action Group, a local lobbyist group, says the number of calls to his office following the Bhopal disaster "has increased dramatically."

"What happened in Bhopal is of

concern to the whole (local) community," he says. Aside from highlighting past emissions violations he and other local residents express serious doubts about the adequacy of emergency procedures in the valley.

Union Carbide plant officials in Institute maintain their emergency procedures are satisfactory. The company says it is an active participant in the Kanawha Valley Industrial Emergency Council which brings together local chemicals companies, health officials and local government. "We have been deeply involved in plans to deal with emergencies," says Mr. Hank Karawan, Institute's plant manager. But what concerns some local residents is the nature of those plans.

For many, including Mr. Bryant, the sum total of the plan is to sound, in Union Carbide's words, "a very loud steam whistle" and hope that people who have read a 1982 "letter to neighbours" from Union Carbide can figure out the wind direction, and manage to walk "crosswind", in the event of a gas escape.

"We need a proper evacuation procedure," says Mr. Bryant. It seems that state, congressional and local officials may be edging towards the same conclusion.

A few hours after the press were allowed into the Institute plant, past the low yellow-brick administrative offices and on to a four-foot earth mound which we were told hid the MIC storage tanks, a group of local residents, local, state and federal officials, and a handful of senators were given a VIP tour of the facility. Earlier in the week the state governor had ordered his own inspection staff into the plant to monitor operations.

Mr. Bryant believes the current reevaluation of safety procedures should not be confined to MIC. "This plant makes lots of chemicals I am even more concerned about," he says. "It is really tragic that it takes something like this to make people aware." But the depth of the split in local feeling was graphically illustrated in recent editorial of the local Charleston Gazette.

The editorial headed "Legal Jackals Prowling", vigorously attacked the \$15 billion suit against Union Carbide, filed in Charleston, describing it as "encapsulating all that's rotten in this nation's legal profession."

The editorial continued: "We won't discuss the tactical stupidity of bringing a case against Carbide in a city and a state where the corporate image isn't bad by any yardstick and where the corporate clout is such that it and its employees pay perhaps one tenth of the state's total tax bill."

Union Carbide may well need such loyalty. The company took a big gamble in opening the Institute plant to the press — and, in doing so, admitted that "small" leaks, often involving faulty valves, were commonplace.

However, the answers it gave to crucial questions on comparisons between the Bhopal and Institute plants, on which it generally pleaded ignorance, often prompted even more questions.

In any event, people like Mr. Bryant hope that the one positive aspect of Bhopal will be to force Union Carbide and other U.S. chemical groups drastically to upgrade what he regards as woefully inadequate emergency procedures — Financial Times news feature.

Austrian, Belgian roads among world's most dangerous

By Hanns Neuerbourg
Associated Press

GENEVA — Austrian and Belgian roads apparently rank among the world's most dangerous. Japan has the lowest cancer death rate of all industrialised countries. The relative frequency of homicide is 15 times higher in the United States than in England.

In Hong Kong, a woman of 65 has a good chance to live 20 more years. But in Romania, site of a much-publicised geriatrics clinic, a newborn boy has a life expectancy of only 67.1 years. On the African island nation of Mauritius it is 63.2.

These data are among thousands contained in the 385-page statistical year book just published by the World Health Organisation.

Among them: — Wine-growing countries have the highest number of fatal liver ailments, including cirrhosis, per 100,000 population. In Italy, the rate was 34.3 in 1980, 29.5 in Chile and 27.6 in France, compared with 8.4 in Scotland and 4.6

in Norway in the same year.

— Suicide figures uphold the notion of a "suicide belt" extending from Scandinavia through central Europe that has been researched inconclusively for years. The rate in Hungary, at the lower end of the "belt," is the highest of all countries listed with 43.5 per 100,000. In Denmark it is 29.

Suicide statistics, however, often are considered unreliable because of the reluctance to classify deaths as suicides in Roman Catholic countries where the act is viewed as a grave sin.

— Austria's traffic fatalities number 25 per 100,000 population, followed by Belgium with 23.2.

— In Japan, suicides outnumber fatal automobile accidents. In the United States, the suicide rate is only half that of road deaths. Japan's suicide rate is 17.4 per 100,000 population, while its traffic accident death rate is 10.2. In the United States, it is 11.8 for suicides and 22.9 for traffic fatalities.

— Among Western nations, the

United States has the highest death rate for what WHO calls "homicide and injury purposely inflicted by other persons." The 10.5 violent deaths per 100,000 reported by U.S. officials in 1980 contrasted with rates of .07 in Britain and Wales.

In El Salvador, where guerrillas have been fighting a five-year battle with government troops, the rate was 37.6.

— More people die from "accidental falls" than in traffic accidents in France. In 1981, 12,059 people were killed in falls and 11,033 died in traffic accidents.

— Heart ailments and other diseases of the circulatory system range from 248.7 in Japan to 643.4 in Austria.

— The cancer death rate ranges from 143.3 in Japan to 27.42 in Denmark. Despite a general trend towards greater longevity, the publication suggests that life expectancy for both men and women receded in two countries, Canada and Luxembourg, during the last two years listed.

GENEVA — Selected mortality rates according to the 1984 WHO statistical year book (country, year, specific death rate per 100,000 population):

	Circulatory	Cancer	Traffic	Suicide	Homicide	Liver
Brazil (80)	158.8	50.2	16.7	3.3	11.7	8.1
East Ger. (78)	795.8	224.2	16.5	—	—	14.1
Sweden (82)	611.7	233.2	9.6	19.4	1.2	8.7
Norway (82)	497.2	225.3	10.4	14.0	1.0	4.6
France (81)	374.8	234.7	20.4	19.6	1.0	27.6
Finland (80)	486.2	189.9	11.9	25.7	3.3	6.3
Denmark (82)	511.1	274.2	13.0	29.0	1.0	10.9
New Zeal (81)	389.2	177.0	21.6	10.1	1.3	4.6
Scotl (83)	626.0	275.9	12.4	9.8	1.6	8.4
Eng-Ws (82)	573.0	265.0	10.6	8.6	0.7	4.3
Neth. (82)	368.5	222.3	11.7	10.7	0.8	5.4
Italy (80)	465.3	213.5	19.2	7.3	1.9	34.3
Ire. (80)	499.2	184.9	16.7	6.3	0.7	3.3
Hungary (82)	726.8	263.9	15.3	43.5	2.4	32.2
Greece (82)	398.8	174.2	19.7	3.5	0.9	1.4
W. Ger. (82)	585.0	259.5	17.8	21.3	1.2	25.2
Belgium (79)	486.5	264.9	23.2	21.5	1.6	13.4
Japan (82)	248.7	143.3	10.2	17.4	0.9	14.0
Austria (82)	643.4	253.6	25.0	27.6	1.6	28.7
USA (80)	437.2	183.3	22.9	11.8	10.5	13.5
Paraguay (80)	180.0	54.0	13.7	3.1	9.1	5.7
Chile (81)	168.2	102.4	10.2	5.6	3.1	29.5
El Salv. (82)	51.5	19.3	17.0	9.7	37.6	6.2
Canada (82)	326.5	170.4	16.5	14.3	2.4	11.1
Mauritius (81)	276.0	54.6	3.8	2.0	0.7	9.2

Everton goes back on top

LONDON (R) — Osvaldo Ardiles and Bryan Robson, two of the world's truly great footballers, enjoyed contrasting fortunes in the English first division Saturday.

Ardiles, the little Argentine, made his return at Queen's Park Rangers after an eight-month absence but his incomparable touches could not save Tottenham from dropping two valuable points in a 2-2 draw which allowed Everton to go back on top.

Everton, who beat Newcastle 4-0 at home, now boast 49 points from 24 games, two points more than Tottenham.

Third-placed Manchester United, another six points in arrears, were beaten 1-0 at home by lowly Coventry after losing the services of Robson, who was taken to hospital with a suspected dislocated shoulder.

The England captain crashed heavily into an advertising hoarding 10 minutes into the second half after chasing a long ball on the icy pitch.

The weather played havoc with the first division programme and only six of the 11 scheduled matches were completed. Liverpool's clash at Sunderland was abandoned at halftime for safety reasons.

Ardiles, out of action since last May due to a series of leg injuries, came on as substitute for Nigerian

winger John Chidozie in the 33rd minute and, although he showed glimpses of his past form, it will obviously be some time before he is back to his best.

Tottenham made the finest possible start when Garth Crooks shot them ahead after just four minutes but Rangers' striker Gary Bannister put the home side in front with an 18th and 53rd minute double.

But with Ardiles and Glenn Hoddle providing a succession of openings, Mark Falco salvaged a point for Tottenham midway through the second half.

Everton, whose sheer consistency may just take them to their first championship victory since 1970, crushed Newcastle with goals from Kevin Sheedy (2), Graeme Sharp and Derek Mountfield.

Without Robson, Manchester United simply fell apart at Old Trafford and Coventry snatched an unexpected win when former

Tottenham striker Terry Gibson scored the only goal of the game in the 70th minute.

Newly-promoted Sheffield Wednesday continue to enjoy life in the top flight and they moved into fourth place below United on goal difference with a 2-0 home win over West Bromwich, strikers Imre Varadi and Lee Chapman scoring a goal apiece.

The Scottish Premier League was also affected by the weather and Aberdeen took advantage of Glasgow Celtic's afternoon off by opening up a wide gap at the top with a crushing 5-0 win at Morton.

Aberdeen have now taken 37 points from 23 games, six points more than Celtic who have two matches in hand.

Third-placed Glasgow Rangers, who are on the 28-point mark, failed to close the gap on their rivals when they were beaten 2-1 at home by relegation-haunted Hibernian.

Brian Rice shot the Edinburgh club ahead after eight minutes and although Iain Ferguson equalised shortly before the interval, Hibernian struck the decisive blow four minutes from time when Colin Harris scored the winner.

Olympic star says blood doping is dangerous

NEW YORK (R) — Olympic superstar Carl Lewis said Saturday he thought blood doping transfusions were physically harmful and did nothing to boost athletic performance.

"I don't think anything is good

when you're messing with the human body," he told reporters after accepting another award for his performance at the Los Angeles Olympics where he won four gold medals.

"I don't feel it's good for you physically and I don't think it helps. But I can't judge what other people do."

Rolling Stone, a U.S. magazine, has alleged in an article to be published next month that members of the U.S. medal-winning cycling team had received blood transfusions in a hotel room near the Olympic velodrome in an attempt to increase their endurance.

It said blood taken from them was treated to produce a concentration of red blood cells and then re-injected before events to raise (the athletes') endurance and win a medal.

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West German midfielder Bernd Schuster

Big four get down to real business in Masters tennis

NEW YORK (R) — The outsiders have finally been eliminated, though not without difficulty, and the big four get down to the really serious business in the semifinals of the Grand Prix Masters Tennis Championship.

The two matches are as the seedings predicted, with American top seed and defending champion John McEnroe meeting Sweden's Mats Wilander, who was seeded fourth, and second-seeded Jimmy Connors playing Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, the third seed.

As in the first two quarter-finals matches, the underdogs in Friday's two contests did not succumb meekly. Eliot Teltscher put fellow-American Connors under great pressure with his attacking game before Connors gained control to win 6-2, 6-4. Joakim Nystrom of Sweden made Lendl work extremely hard before the Czechoslovak moved through 6-4, 7-6.

Having lost to Connors 12 straight times, Teltscher was determined to 'do something different' when they met in Madison Square Garden Friday.

True to his word, the 25-

year-old Californian did, attacking the net more often than usual and playing more aggressively from the baseline as he took a 4-2 lead in the second set.

But his strategy ultimately failed, mainly because the 32-year-old Connors is able to adapt to any type of game while never changing his own slashing style of play.

"I tried coming in a little more," said Teltscher. "But he hit the ball hard and deep, as he always does. Every time we play, he does something a little better."

The match was a lacklustre affair, although Connors drew occasional roars from the gallery with his usual assortment of spectacular volleys and groundstroke winners.

Though Connors had slight problems, he never came under the pressure experienced by McEnroe and Wilander on Thursday. McEnroe trailed by a set and 3-0 before beating Anders Jarryd 2-6, 6-4, 6-2 while Wilander had to save three match points before subduing American Johan Kriek 6-4, 3-6, 7-6.

Lendl found another member of

Schuster finally fulfils promise

By Gudrun Greunke
Reuter

BARCELONA, Spain — Bernd Schuster, the West German midfielder who first demonstrated his glittering talents at the 1980 European Championships, is fulfilling his soccer promise after years of controversy and injury.

The vision and skills of the blond 25-year-old are one of the chief reasons for Barcelona's renaissance under English manager Terry Venables this season which could result in the Catalans winning their first league title in 11 years.

"If he maintains the consistency

he has shown this year I think he is the best midfielder player in the world," Venables told Reuters. "I am very impressed with him as a player."

Dubbed the 'Kaiser of Barcelona' for his effortless domination of midfield, Schuster has also scored six goals in 18 games — and in the process become the darling of the Catalan sports press.

But it was not always so. Schuster arrived in Spain in October 1980 with a reputation for being hard to handle after a row with the manager of his former club Cologne.

Schuster started his career with Augsburg but joined Cologne in 1977 despite claims by Borussia Moenchengladbach that he had agreed to play for them.

He blossomed under Cologne manager Hennes Weisweiler, becoming a member of the national squad while still a teenager, and the thrilling part he played in the West German European Championship victory in Italy led many to compare his skills with those of the young Franz Beckenbauer.

But Schuster soon proved he did not possess the ice-cool temperament of 'Kaiser Franz'.

Cologne began the next season badly and Schuster indulged in a public slanging match with the club's new manager Karl-Heinz Heddergott which led to his relegation to the reserves.

After lengthy but unsuccessful talks with New York Cosmos, who were managed by Weisweiler, Cologne sold Schuster to Barcelona for over \$2 million.

But controversy continued to mark his career. In the spring of 1981 a simmering feud with national team manager Jupp Derwall

flared into open warfare. Derwall had dropped Schuster when it seemed the young player was heading for Cosmos and what Derwall termed the 'operetta football' of the U.S., and in May 1981 he axed Schuster again for not attending a post-match party.

Schuster had missed the party to visit his wife in Cologne and many believed that Gaby, a forceful ex-model considerably older than her husband, was behind the clash with Derwall.

Relations deteriorated further when Derwall said Schuster would not find a place in the 1982 World Cup squad — and the midfielder said he was not willing to play anyway while the outspoken Paul Breitner was 'ruling the roost'.

Ironically, Schuster would probably have been unable to play in Spain because in December 1981 he tore knee ligaments during a match in Bilbao and was out of soccer for many months.

He made his peace with Derwall in 1982 but another injury, a fracture in his right foot, in May 1984 meant he was also unable to play in last year's European Championships.

West Germany's poor showing in France led to the manager's resignation but Schuster's relations with Derwall's successor, Beckenbauer, appear no better.

Beckenbauer says Schuster will be considered only if he is available for every match. As yet the midfielder has declined to make such a commitment.

But Venables, his fourth Barcelona coach in four years, seems to have found the right formula to get the most out of his young player.

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Juniors	Peugeot 0	Pearson 2
Intercon 6	AI Ahlyah 0	Grindlays 4
Volvo 6	Grindlays 4	Ericsson 0
Goodyear 6	AI Ahlyah 2	Goodyear 1
Intercon 12		
Peugeot 2		
Volvo 6		
Grindlays 6		
Mids		
Arab Wings 16	American Express 2	Lego 0
International Traders 13	Chase Manhattan 3	American Express 3
Marriott 4	Arab Wings 2	Lego 4
Cairo-Amman 4	Cairo-Amman 12	
International Traders 8		
Chase Manhattan 5		
Marriott 13		
Seniors		
Jordan Express 29	Holiday Inn 11	Astra 12
Foxboro 14	Holiday Inn 4	Jordan Express 13
Foxboro 10		
Astra 21		

Zurbriggen skies to historic victory

KITZBUHEL, Austria (R) — Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland put himself on a par with the great alpine skiers with a second downhill win in two days on the fearsome 'Hahnenkamm' mountain's 'steepest' course Saturday.

The World Cup holder's victory was overshadowed by a knee injury received in a tough rutted section towards the end of his spectacular run, in which he clocked two minutes 6.95 seconds.

"I was in such pain that I just wanted to stop," he said as his trainers hustled him off to the team hotel to inspect his left knee. Swiss team doctor Hans Spring said the extent of his injury was not yet clear.

"He has pain in his left knee, but it is not yet clear what is exactly wrong," he said. "It is possible it could be the meniscus or a ligament, but we cannot tell yet. We are going back to Switzerland Sunday for a thorough examination."

Zurbriggen's win followed his first downhill victory on the same slope Friday, when he became the first man since Frenchman Jean-Claude Killy 17 years ago to win a race in all three World Cup disciplines in one season.

Austria's Helmut Hoeflechner, winner of the only other downhill so far this season, finished second 0.26 seconds behind and Todd Brooker of Canada was third in 2:08.10.

But he hit the backhand he hits it down the line, which is a very good shot. And his volley is solid.

"You have to serve well against him," Lendl added.

"Joakim doesn't miss much," Lendl said, "and when you hit to his backhand he hits it down the line, which is a very good shot. And his volley is solid."

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كسبنا من المال

Japanese business is divided over economic ties with China

TOKYO (R) — Peking's leanings towards a more capitalist economy raise the prospect of a marriage between Japan's financial and technological power and China's millions to create a formidable economic force in Asia.

Japanese businessmen are divided about the idea, however. "It is a possibility in the distant future, but it will probably not happen in this century," senior Japanese trade ministry official Mr. Hideki Takahashi told Reuters.

Under the leadership of Mr. Deng Xiaoping, China has invited foreign investors to start joint ventures using their expertise and Chinese workers to modernise China's economy.

Economists here say Sino-Japanese joint ventures and technology transfers are growing rapidly in activities as diverse as making tape measures to running a computer school.

But many Japanese businessmen are still wary about involving their companies in China's modernisation programme and, as a result, Peking is unsatisfied with Japan's contribution.

Mr. Haruo Okada, a Japanese parliamentarian who met Mr. Deng recently, said in a magazine article that the Chinese leader felt the commitment from large Japanese companies was minute.

Trade between Japan and China has been relatively balanced in the past, with Japan buy-

ing fuels from China and the Chinese buying steel and machinery from the Japanese.

But now the trade balance is tilting in Japan's favour due to rising exports of its consumer goods, particularly cars, and China has begun to demand transfers of technology.

The Nomura Research Institute says the number of Japanese joint ventures in China more than doubled last year from the 12 in existence at the end of 1983 and that the "Chinese fever" of Japanese companies is not likely to subside in the near future.

The size of China's population alone is enticing.

"Given the billion people in China and a car ownership of just one per 1,000 against one for every 10 in Japan, there's enormous potential demand," Mr. Hiroo Matsuda, an executive with the Nissan Motor Company, told Reuters in an interview.

Banks too caught "Chinese fever" when the Bank of China came to Tokyo in November to float its first large yen bond, for some \$80 million. Bankers eagerly await a return.

Mr. Katsuya Takahashi, general manager of Nomura Securities International finance department, says a "special relationship" is growing between Japan and China in the financial area.

"Chinese borrowers will keep coming here," he told Reuters. But still there are sceptics

about. Some Japanese firms argue that assessing the China market simply in terms of population is unrealistic. They wonder whether China's millions have enough money to buy Japan's goods and want to see more market research before moving into China.

Mr. Takahashi, senior official in the trade ministry's North Asia division, told Reuters there was still a feeling that China's legal framework was inadequate as well as concern about companies having to take on workers at high wages.

And could China's open-door policy come to an end? Fresh in the minds of Japanese businessmen is the blow suffered by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries in the late 1970s when China cancelled contracts to build a sophisticated steel mill complex at Baoshan near Shanghai.

"A great many Japanese corporations are apprehensive about China's future policies. They fear they face the prospect of being kicked out when their usefulness is over," Mr. Takahashi said.

And companies asked to transfer their technology do not see how the Chinese can absorb it quickly, he added.

"China lacks even basic technical knowledge and its engineers need more training. It is impossible for them to cope with today's leading technologies," he concluded.

Britain faces pound worth less than dollar

LONDON (R) — With sterling sliding rapidly on the foreign exchanges, the British are for the first time facing the prospect that the pound may soon be worth less than the dollar.

The pound, which 35 years ago could buy \$4, touched a record low last week of less than \$1.13 and many market dealers believe that the traumatic day when the two currencies are at parity may not be far off.

Bookmakers have started quoting odds on when it will happen and dealers on the exchanges are supposed to be planning "parity parties" to mark the occasion.

The experts say the pound's chances of escaping such humiliation rest largely with oil prices.

As the only major oil-exporting industrialised country, Britain depends heavily upon its North Sea oil revenue, which reached £12 billion (now \$13.6 billion) in 1984, to balance its budget. A col-

lapse in the oil market would send sterling spinning down.

But if world oil prices do not slump, the pound could well recover some of the ground it has lost and the arrival of parity might be postponed, they say.

The story of how a mighty currency came so low parallels the decline of British power and the rise of the United States.

Before World War I, when the British empire girdled the globe, sterling reigned supreme in world trade. Its value was linked to gold and in 1914 it traded on the exchanges at a steady \$5.

After two world wars and a depression it had slipped to \$4 and Britain had decisively surrendered its economic and military world

dominance to the United States.

In 1949, with the post-war economy struggling and British goods unable to compete abroad, the reforming Labour Party government of Clement Attlee slashed the pound's exchange value by 30 per cent to \$2.80, the most drastic tumble in the currency's history.

Drastic as it was, that devaluation launched sterling on a long period of stability, surviving unchanged for 18 years within the Bretton Woods international financial system, despite the continuing relative decline of the national economy.

When the next sterling devaluation came, amid another trade crisis in 1967, it rocked the world financial order, ended the era of stable foreign exchanges and ultimately freed the pound to sink ever lower against the dollar.

The 1967 devaluation cut the

pound to \$2.40 and helped set off a wave of currency crises elsewhere.

In 1972, as the turmoil continued, Britain abandoned a fixed exchange rate and four years later the pound slumped below \$2 for the first time, hitting a low of \$1.56.

North Sea oil, arriving as it did at a time of world oil shortages, gave the pound its only significant post-war boost, lifting it to \$2.45 in late 1980.

But shortage turned to glut and the dollar, backed by a strong U.S. economy and high interest rates, started a new and relentless rise. The pound plummeted \$1.60 two years ago, \$1.40 one year ago, \$1.30 six months ago and \$1.13 this month.

Will it go lower and reach parity?

"It seems unthinkable, but it is no more impossible than a rate of \$1.20 was a few months ago — nothing is sacrosanct in the market," said Mr. David Sawyer, an analyst at Barclays Bank.

'It's just arithmetic'

Mr. David Kern, chief economist at National Westminster Bank, thinks the psychological breakthrough has already been made, simply because people are ready to talk about parity. "It's just arithmetic," he said. Mr. Kern thought the pound would recover before it hit parity.

a view shared by several other economists interviewed by Reuters.

Most agreed, however, that the success or failure of oil producing countries, and particularly the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), in showing up oil prices this year will probably be critical in the long term.

There is certainly no indication that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will step in to bolster the currency. She has a firm policy of not intervening on the markets.

In economic terms, a weaker pound has advantages, making British goods cheaper on foreign markets and boosting the value of government oil taxes, which are levied in dollars.

But it has the notable drawback of pushing up inflation by increasing the cost of imported goods, and in the eyes of voters it is usually seen as a poor reflection on the government.

The foreign exchanges are a measure of international confidence in Britain, and a historic slip below \$1 would inevitably be an embarrassing moment for Mrs. Thatcher.

It would give headline writers and the Labour opposition a field day. As one economist remarked: "Most people in Britain pay no attention to the price of the pound, but the day it falls below \$1 absolutely everyone will know."

American shoppers are flocking to London with strong dollars

LONDON (R) — Thousands of Americans are going a little further to do their shopping this winter — across the Atlantic to Britain, where they are packing the capital's leading department stores in search of bargains.

Travellers' dollars buy twice the number of pounds they did in 1980, making Cashmere sweaters, China tea services and linen bedding much cheaper in Britain than in the United States.

Traditional winter sales have enhanced the attraction of shopping in London.

When Harrods — the exclusive department store where British royalty shop — threw open its doors earlier this month at the start of a three-week sale, more than 30,000 people charged in during the first hour.

In the first two days, cash registers rang up £8.7 million (\$10 million), 21 per cent more than last year.

"The American presence is very noticeable in the store and this has been spurred by an advertisement Harrods placed in the New York Times, allied to the strong dollar," said managing director Mr. Frank Hewitt.

The full-page advertisement, urging trans-Atlantic shopping trips, was Harrods' first in the U.S. since 1928.

Spending by Americans in Harrods has risen steadily with the slide of the pound. Americans accounted for 25 per cent of Harrods' 1984 turnover and 60 per cent of sales to foreigners.

Fortnum and Mason, London's fashionable food emporium which shuns the word "sale" in favour of "reductions", has equally few qualms about the parlous state of the once-proud pound.

"The after-Christmas trough will be more buoyant than last year thanks to the Americans," said managing director Mr. G.V. Hamilton.

Even DeBrett, the chronicler of Britain's blue-blooded nobility, is cashing in. A new stall at Harrods offers ancestral searches and sale-priced genealogy guides to

the "Texan gentry".

The London Tourist Board estimates that 85,000 Americans will visit Britain this month, over 20 per cent more than in January last year. "When the exchange rate is favourable, we do exceptionally well," a board spokeswoman said.

The dollar's increased buying power and the lure of London's sales have meant good business for airlines.

Eager to woo trans-Atlantic shoppers from New York, Pan American offered a return trip to London at just \$189.

"We want to get across the message that with the dollar so much more valuable, Britain and its shops are great value," a spokesman for the airline said.

For those not wanting to waste valuable bargain-hunting time looking for hotels, the American Express travel group has a full weekend package trip.

Harrods' spokeswoman Ms. Nicki Cartwright said many Americans had taken holidays to coincide with the sale or flown in especially.

One couple laid out more than \$5,000 to spend a single day at the sale, flying to and from London on

British Airways' supersonic jet Concorde, she said.

"I've served people here who are so tired from jet-lag they can hardly stand up," Harrods' crockery salesman Mr. Martin McHugh said.

The exchange rate means that the cost of air fares can be quickly recouped by a few shrewd purchases in the sales. A Burberry coat that sells for over \$350 in New York costs under \$200 in a London sale.

Other bargains include a golden sable coat, on sale at half its original price for only £30,000 (\$34,000).

On sale days the usually genteel surroundings of Harrods' fur department resemble a boisterous jubilee sale, with the accents of New York and Dallas unmistakable in the din.

"It reached a point where we couldn't cope," said the head of the department Mr. Alex Fischel. "There were people everywhere trying on furs and serving themselves."

But so long as the dollars continue to flow, few at the store are likely to complain about the noise.

Finance ministers call special session ahead of IMF talks

BONN (R) — The finance ministers of the so-called Group of Five leading industrialised nations will hold an extraordinary meeting in Washington in mid-January, a West German finance ministry spokesman said Friday.

Government sources said the meeting between the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain and France is to prepare for the scheduled April meetings of the interim committee and the development fund of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

But the news raised speculation that moves could be afoot to tackle the dollar's persistent strength on world currency markets, foreign exchange dealers in Frankfurt said.

Government sources said the heads of the five countries' central banks will also take part in the special session, though a Bundesbank spokesman declined to comment.

At their annual meeting last September, the IMF and the World Bank agreed to demands from developing countries for a dialogue with industrial nations on common financial problems.

The dialogue was to take place within the framework of this spring's meetings of the interim committee, a group of 22 ministers from leading IMF member states that deals with proposals for reforming the IMF.

Reagan gives blessing for moves by Congress to reduce spending

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan, eager to halve his huge budget deficit, seems increasingly inclined to let Congress take the lead in making the hard choices on government spending cuts.

In his first year in Washington in 1981, Mr. Reagan seized the initiative and won congressional approval for historic cuts on federal spending and the largest tax cut in U.S. history.

But lower taxes have contributed to record deficits that, in the absence of policy changes, are projected to exceed \$200 billion for many years.

Administration officials say cutting the deficit is their top priority, but Mr. Reagan has been unable to come up with a plan that will meet his goal of a \$100 billion deficit in 1988.

He has now signalled he will seriously consider budget plans being prepared in Congress.

"I do not mind if they (Congress) want to do what they're doing and have some plans of their own or suggest some. Maybe they've got some ideas we haven't thought of yet," he told a press conference earlier last week.

While Mr. Reagan remains adamantly opposed to treating the deficits with higher taxes, he hinted at the news conference that he might amend his budget and accept cuts in defence spending and social security if that's what Congress wants.

Mr. Reagan said he would consider a controversial freeze in soc-

ial security retirement benefits if Congress wanted it.

Perhaps more significantly, Mr. Reagan appeared to leave himself room for an eventual compromise on military spending. He defended his rejection of massive arms spending cuts already sought by his economic advisers, but did not say flatly that further cuts were unacceptable.

Mr. Reagan said arms spending was governed by national security needs, not by economic considerations. He was reluctant to clamp down on future Pentagon spending because defence needs were dictated by outside forces and were therefore unpredictable.

Privately, senior administration officials point out that Mr. Reagan has consistently taken a hard line in public and then bowed to congressional insistence that arms spending increase at a slower pace than projected in his formal budget requests.

Mr. Donald Regan, White House chief of staff, strongly denied in an interview with news agencies Saturday that the administration had lost the initiative on budget control.

Other officials said a spending freeze plan now being debated by Senators from Mr. Reagan's own Republican Party could set the stage for a compromise that would cut the deficit and enable the president to get much of his own budget approved.

Mr. Reagan's spending blueprint falls short of his own deficit

goals, one aide said, and the Senate effort "is the only way we can get out of our bind on social security and defence."

Iowa Republican Senator Charles Grassley also voiced optimism following a meeting with White House aides.

"I think we can reach an accommodation with the White House on defence... the president is being more compromising than in the past," Mr. Grassley told reporters.

Mr. Reagan said last Wednesday he wants to hold government spending in the 1986 financial year to the 1985 level. That would reduce the 1986 deficit to about \$170 billion instead of the \$225 billion currently estimated.

That would require spending cuts of \$55 billion. The budget document Mr. Reagan will send to Congress on Feb. 4 will only identify cuts worth about \$42 billion.

Current White House budget plans leave Mr. Reagan more than \$40 billion short of his target 1988 deficit of \$100 billion.

Republican senators are weighing a spending freeze plan that would save about \$6 billion in 1986 by postponing a cost-of-living increase in social security retirement benefits.

Their plan would also trim arms spending by about \$20 billion in 1986 and \$107 billion over the next three years.

The legislators say their plan would be fairer and easier to enact than Mr. Reagan's package.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YEEND
PREYK
SLIMIE
INTOAR

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: JUST "O O O O" & "O O O O" (Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FORUM GAUZE EXTANT DULCET
Answer: The reason so many of us are disappointed with our lot these days is that it's no longer this — A LOT

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JAN. 13, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: After getting a needed rest you would be wise to consider your associations with other persons and what you can do to enhance the accord that exists between you and them.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get something at which you are skillful done early, and then make certain you solve those problems with outsiders.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Plan some time to build up your energies through exercise. If you want recreation, make sure it is not too costly.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Some thoughtful act to prove your devotion to your mate is wise in the morning. Conditions may be tense later.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Early enjoy your abode since later situations may arise that will require strength, care and caution.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Meditating early can be most helpful to you and later you can gain benefits from this. Important that you exercise care while on the road.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Any financial discussion should be handled during the daytime since later practical affairs could bring tenseness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You have the right answers to problems in the morning, but later our vision is somewhat blurred and you could make mistakes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have a plan in mind that will not bring you much success, so forget about it and latch on to something better tomorrow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Although you want to go out socially, it is best to handle some personal affair that is important.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Avoid higher-ups since they are not in a very favorable mood. A day to be wise and careful and safe.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Not a good day to take any trips of any kind, even mentally, since you could have bad results. Don't let anyone impose on you.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) A good day to study in to written material and rid yourself of stumbling blocks in the path of your progress.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be a born trouble shooter and will be diplomatic in both personal and business dealings and thereby avoid having others use force on him or her. Therefore, send to schools where this kind of mentality can be nurtured. Teach self defense.

THE Daily Crossword

By Roma Schmidt

ACROSS

- 1 Built
- 5 Game marble
- 8 Snakes
- 12 Fish sauce
- 13 Indian water vessel
- 15 Sac
- 16 Marine polyp
- 18 Use an sugar
- 19 Legates
- 20 Cavalryman
- 22 Observes
- 23 Gym equipment
- 24 "My Sons"
- 26 Gloom
- 30 That girl
- 33 Fabled marine monster
- 35 Charges
- 36 Had
- 37 Wedding words
- 38 Russ. noun
- 39 Pirate captain
- 40 Like the weather
- 42 Beast of burden
- 43 Canyons
- 44 Charged particle
- 45 "Caesar"
- 46 Water bodies
- 48 Cut short
- 52 Postures
- 55 Alop
- 56 Marine weed
- 58 Sports attendance
- 59 Come to a point
- 60 Ireland
- 61 Shredded cabbage
- 62 Church seat
- 63 Breeding horse

DOWN

- 1 Brewing mixture
- 2 Away from the wind
- 3 Atlantic resort spots
- 4 Frighten
- 5 Jones and Seaver
- 6 From — Z
- 7 Desire
- 8 Head churchman
- 9 Spill over
- 10 Undulterated
- 11 Valticulator
- 13 — Antilles
- 14 Loner
- 17 Required
- 21 Bladed pole
- 24 Buddhist king of old
- 25 Hardtack
- 31 Greeting
- 32 Ruhr city
- 34 Sub-Lit.
- 35 Monastery man
- 38 Dislodge
- 40 Cruel person
- 41 Pearl haven
- 42 By way of
- 45 Scatter

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ARIA	CAPTIV	IGERIN
SIA	HERIDS	DALIS
ARC	ERATO	ELVER
THEW	IZARD	ODDIF
POE	ILIO	SSIS
SWINDLE	SARK	
SAIRE	LESIS	TITIN
ENITIS	SIEMEN	ALIE
ASH	EXAMPLE	
AME	TEAM	DEI
BAISLING	ALLLEY	
ILINUS	RINSE	COL
ELECT	ASITIR	RIE
BETHE	THEIS	SEIN

47 Feeds the	51 Bound
48 Swamp	52 Light ten
49 Egg-shaped	54 Gam
50 Gr. letter	57 Mink

France declares emergency amid riots in New Caledonia

NOUMEA (R) — France Saturday declared a state of emergency in its Pacific possession of New Caledonia amid riots by white settlers and the killing of a leading black militant, which appeared to doom independence plans for the territory.

Police moved in with tear gas and stun grenades to clear several thousand settlers from the streets of Noumea, the capital, when the emergency order came into effect.

French special envoy Edgard Pisani issued the order, which included a dusk to dawn curfew on private transport and a ban on arms possession, after the killing of Eloi Machoro, who had led a campaign by militant Melanesian Kanaks for independence.

Police said they shot Machoro and an aide in a gunfight Saturday about 80 kilometres from the capital, Noumea, after surrounding a house in which he was hiding with supporters.

Machoro was "minister for internal security" in a provisional government set up on Dec. 1 by the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS).

The FLNKS issued a statement urging supporters not to take action until after Machoro's funeral but said his death cancelled all

current peace talks.

They did not give a date for the funeral of Machoro, 38, a former schoolteacher who led the Kanak revolt by sinking an axe into a ballot box in territorial elections on Nov. 18.

Militants among Kanaks, who make up only 43 per cent of the 145,000 population after immigration from France and other Pacific states, boycotted the poll. But the FLNKS said in its statement Saturday that the killing of Machoro returns independence negotiations to the starting point.

The talks began in early December after militant Kanaks lifted the roadblocks which had paralysed most of the island. The death Saturday brought the death toll in violence to 19.

Mr. Pisani on Monday proposed an independence referendum in July in which a "Yes" vote would end 131 years of French rule next January. France would retain spe-

cial links such as in defence and internal security.

"The action Saturday cancels the proposals of Pisani," said the FLNKS.

Settlers took to the streets of Noumea Friday night, burning homes and offices of Kanak supporters, after the 17-year-old son of a white farmer was killed.

Yves Tual was shot dead by gunfire from a forest some 80 kilometres west of Noumea. Police have taken in a group of local FLNKS supporters for questioning.

The rioting by several thousand settlers continued into Saturday and when the emergency order came into operation a squadron of crack riot police began taking tougher action.

They charged crowds, making mass arrests among the settlers, who were chanting "Pisani assassin" and objecting to his independence plan.

Stones and other missiles were being thrown by the protesters, split into groups and surging round streets heading to the French High Commission.

At least 24 people have been injured in the riots, officials said. There was no figure on the numbers arrested but many were

held in the high commission's tennis court pending questioning in police stations.

The demonstrators later dispersed, leaving the city centre looking as though it had been hit by a cyclone, residents said.

Debris, including empty tear gas canisters, rocks and masses of litter and bottles, were strewn around the main square.

There were also several burned-out cars, two-fire scarred buildings and a gutted office, all set on fire during the night of the protests.

Meanwhile police Saturday charged two FLNKS supporters with the murder of Jean-Marie Sangame, a resident of the east coast town of Hienghene who was found shot dead in his home on December 12, police said.

Tual was a nephew of the mayor of Thio, Roger Galliot, the only elected representative in the territory of France's extreme right-wing National Front Party. Fifteen Kanaks from a nearby tribe were detained for questioning after the killing.

"I'm giving the authorities an ultimatum," Mr. Galliot told reporters. "If they do nothing, we'll deal with the killers ourselves."



French helmet riot policemen block a street Friday in Noumea with tear-gas and concussion grenades, rioting to about 2,000 demonstrators violently protesting the killing of a teenage European (AP wirephoto)

Thais lay barbed wire on frontier

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand (AP) — Thai troops laid down kilometres of barbed wire along the Thai-Kampuchean border and a key frontier commander said Saturday he was concerned that Vietnamese troops would next strike a concentration of Kampuchean civilians and defeated guerrillas.

Maj. Gen. Salya Sriphen told reporters that Thai soldiers Saturday completed laying down six to seven kilometres of barbed wire to demarcate the frontier at Ampil Camp, a Kampuchean resistance base overrun and now held by the Vietnamese. Following the seizure of Ampil on Jan. 7, Vietnamese and Thai officers met and agreed to a clear demarcation to avoid hostilities between the two sides. Orange flags and boundary markers were planted, and Gen. Salya, who commands Thailand's eastern task force, said the wire would further ensure that the Vietnamese would not stray into Thai territory.

The three lines of wire, Gen. Salya said, run north-south about 500 metres east of an anti-tank ditch where Thai troops are dug in. Initially the Vietnamese moved close to the ditch but then withdrew after the talks.

Gen. Salya said the Vietnamese might continue their most potent offensive of the six-year-war by attacking San Ro Changan, a camp of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF). The camp is located about seven kilometres north of Ampil, which had served as headquarters for this anti-Communist resistance group since 1979.

The defenders of Ampil, estimated at about 5,000 men, retreated to the San Ro Changan-Dong Ruk area when the Vietnamese swept into their stronghold. Dong Ruk has a civilian population of 17,500 Kampuchean and 4,300 Vietnamese who fled their homeland across Kampuchea. The civilians from San Ro Changan were evacuated into Thai territory last week.

The Thai military near this key border town also presented five of six Vietnamese soldiers they said had crossed the frontier and surrendered to the Thais since Jan. 8. Two of the five were identified as officers and all said they were tired of the war in Kampuchea and wished to be resettled in third countries.

Lt. Phan Van Phuoc, 21, said he had been assigned to draft 30 Kampuchean civilians to construct a 16-kilometre-long earthen defence wall near the Thai frontier. The wall ran parallel to the frontier about 12 kilometres inside Kampuchean territory, he said.

Fighting the Vietnamese, who peaceful change.

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"For my nation will not long continue a policy of so-called constructive engagement with a social order so entirely destructive of human rights."

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On Sunday, the Senator speaks at a Roman Catholic Church in Soweto, Johannesburg's black satellite city. He travels to Lusaka Sunday to meet Zambian leaders including President Kenneth Kaunda, a peacemaker in Southern African affairs, and then flies to London en route home.

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COLUMN

Protesters lob eggs at Thatcher

LEICESTER, England (R) — Demonstrators bombarded Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher with eggs but plain clothes police and security guards shielded her from the attack. The missiles were thrown during a noisy protest by about 500 people outside a centre for disabled workers in Leicester, central England, which Mrs. Thatcher was visiting. Police, who called in reinforcements to control the crowd, made five arrests. The demonstrators chanted support for striking miners and opposition to government policies throughout the visit.

'Good Samaritan' turns bad

OVERLAND PARK, Kansas (AP) — An apparent good Samaritan who helped start a woman's car and talked about how dangerous it was to be out at night then pulled a gun and took her purse, police said. Karen Corson, 19, told police she was stranded in southern Overland Park about 1 a.m. Friday after her car broke down, and that the man pulled up behind her in a light blue pickup truck. "He stopped and asked, 'Can I help you?'" said police Capt. Ron Jackson. "He crawled under the car and got it going. He then pulled an unknown-type handgun out of his pocket and stated, 'give me your purse,'" said Sgt. Larry Dixon. The man then fled with the purse, which contained \$5 and other belongings, police said.

Boat girl wins place at Oxford

LONDON (R) — A Vietnamese boat-girl who arrived in England five years ago not knowing a word of English has won a place at Britain's Oxford University, a British newspaper reported Saturday. The Daily Mail said Ly, 18, fled Vietnam in a boat with her parents and younger brother and settled in Hampshire, southern England. Ly will be studying physics at St. Hugh's College, Oxford. "It really is a dream come true. I don't think I would live to get here, never mind that I would be going to one of the world's most famous universities," the paper quoted Ly as saying.

Beauty queen banished from BBC

LONDON (R) — Jill Saxby Friday night became the last Beauty Queen to be shown on the television screens of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC). The BBC is ending its coverage of beauty contests, with Programme Controller Michael Grade describing them as "an unacceptable anachronism in an age of equality, bordering on the offensive." Friday night's contest was for the Miss Great Britain title, won by Saxby, a 25-year-old brunette from Sheffield, northern England. The annual Miss World contest is screened by a commercial television company.

Two rhinos die fighting for love

GAUHATI, India (R) — An Indian train killed two male rhinos who were locked in combat on a railway line over the favours of a female, a wildlife official said Saturday. P.C. Das, a wildlife conservation officer in the north east state of Assam, told Reuters the two, which has escaped from a forest sanctuary at Digaru 25 kilometres from here, did not notice the train coming. One died a few hours after being hit and the other on Thursday, five days after the incident, he said. The train was not damaged. Forest rangers removed the rhino horns, highly valued in Asia for their alleged sex-booster properties.

Big rock festival opens in Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — A gathering billed as one of the biggest rock music festivals ever opened Friday night with tens of thousands of fans, mostly young, converging on a specially built "rock city" on the outskirts of town. Radio JB, a private radio station broadcasting news bulletins from the scene, said the opening-night crowd was approaching 200,000. Organisers predicted 1.5 million people would turn out for the 10-day festival.

Gandhi wants better ties with Pakistan

KARACHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said in an interview published here Saturday that he wanted to improve relations with Pakistan but felt Islamabad did not seriously want to do so.

He told the Karachi daily Dawn in New Delhi that he wanted talks between the rival neighbours, which broke off last July, to res-

ume but felt Pakistan's statements to the same effect rang hollow.

"We sometimes get the feeling Pakistan is not very serious about the whole thing," he said. "Although you talk very much, your actions do not match your words. That sort of thing puts us in a bit of an awkward position."

Mr. Gandhi praised President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq's interest

in improving ties between the two countries, which have fought three wars since splitting at independence in 1947, but said this did not filter down to lower levels.

"If your actions could match President Zia's statements, we would have no difficulty in resuming negotiations at all," he said. "In fact, there would be no problem at all."

India interrogates captured Sri Lankans

NEW DELHI (AP) — India charged seven captured Sri Lankan Navy troops with rioting and extortion, and began interrogating of their commander about an alleged violation of Indian territorial waters that which further strained relations between the two uneasy neighbours, news reports said Saturday.

The United News of India (UNI) said the Sri Lankans, who were the crew of a naval vessel captured Friday in Indian waters, were brought to Madurai City for interrogation.

Quoting police sources, the news agency said the Sri Lankans had been charged with armed rioting, extorting a confession and causing injury to Indian public servants on duty.

The Indian External Affairs Ministry's spokesman, Salman Haider, could not confirm the report, saying only that an inquiry was being made about Friday's incident.

The Sri Lankans allegedly intruded into India's territorial waters, robbed 20 Indian fishing boats of their catch and nets, and beat up 10 Indian fishermen.

India caught the Sri Lankans in Indian waters, Mr. Haider said. His government Friday expressed its "serious view" of the alleged intrusion to Sri Lanka's diplomatic mission here.

Relations between the two countries, separated by the narrow Palk Strait, have been strained by Sri Lankan accusations that India trains and arms Tamil guerrillas seeking an independent nation in northern Sri Lanka. New Delhi has denied the charge.

India increased its naval forces in the Palk Strait this week, after protesting that the Sri Lankan Navy violated its territorial waters on Monday and killed two Indian fishermen.

Sri Lanka rejected both protests. It said the seven naval troops were performing legitimate duties within Sri Lankan territorial waters, and pulled alongside the Indian boat after receiving a signal from it.

The Sri Lankan High Commission in New Delhi on Saturday requested that the Indian government release the seamen.

HEILBRONN, West Germany (R) — U.S. army experts were Saturday trying to determine why a Pershing-2 missile caught fire as it was being unpacked at a military base in West Germany, killing three American soldiers and injuring 16 others.

An investigating officer had already been appointed and was on the scene, a U.S. army spokesman told Reuters Friday night.

The fire broke out as troops of the 56th Field Artillery Brigade at the U.S. Camp Red Leg near Heilbronn were unpacking the first stage of a Pershing-2 missile newly arrived from the United States.

The spokesman said the Pershing-2 rocket motor, which is packed with solid fuel, ignited as the part was being removed from its shipping container, causing a searing fire.

"There was no explosion and no nuclear weapons were involved," an official army statement said. The camp, about 40 kilometres north of Stuttgart, was imm-

Kennedy visits South West Africa

WINDHOEK, South West Africa (AP) — Sen. Edward Kennedy arrived in the disputed territory of South-West Africa to meet church and nationalist leaders Saturday, after declaring that the American people were losing patience with South Africa's racial practices.

Kennedy's plane flew from Cape Town, at the southern tip of Africa, and landed at Windhoek about noon (1000GMT).

In Cape Town, he said Americans will not support constructive engagement, the U.S. policy of political and economic contacts with South Africa seen by the Reagan administration as the best way to promote gradual and

peaceful change.

"One reason for my trip here is to signal that the vast majority of my fellow citizens oppose apartheid and we will not accept endless delay and empty excuses for it," Sen. Kennedy, a Democrat, told a rally Friday night in the coloured, or mixed-race township of Athlone, near Cape Town.

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Hart urges fundamental changes in NATO role

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — U.S. Senator Gary Hart on Saturday urged fundamental changes in the structure and role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to prevent the military alliance from becoming "another Holy Roman Empire, empty of all but elaborate forms and ceremonies."

The Colorado Democrat, an unsuccessful U.S. presidential candidate in 1984, proposed a commission of former national leaders to consider NATO's future, which he said would lead to a "breakdown of consensus" unless there are reforms.

In the text of a speech at the University of Edinburgh, released by his Washington office, Sen. Hart said there will be major changes in the national interests of the United States and the European member nations of NATO.

"Change is not a danger," Sen. Hart said. "The only danger is freezing NATO in a rigid mold as the world changes around it. If that were done, NATO would ultimately become another Holy Roman Empire, empty of all but elaborate forms and ceremonies." Sen. Hart's speech was scheduled among the early stops of a 2-day trip through Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union and Switzerland. He is regarded likely to seek the Democratic Party U.S. presidential nomination again in 1988.

A member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sen. Hart was an early advocate of sweeping changes in the U.S. Defence department's structures.

Specifically, Sen. Hart said the U.S. Navy and NATO must recognise that Soviet submarines pose a major threat to control of the seas.

"The challenge has been made all the more serious because the U.S. Navy has refused to acknowledge the increased and different threat represented by the submarine," said Sen. Hart.

Moreover, he said, "the United States cannot do everything, everywhere at once. We cannot be the world's dominant seapower, keep a major army in Europe, protect world-wide sea routes, carry a substantial portion of the burden of defending Japan and Korea, and maintain adequate strategic forces all at the same time."

He said he decided on the scheme after U.S. embassy officials in West Germany told him it would be a "long time" before she would be able to enter the country.

Ayazi told the friend he packed the woman in the suitcase, but discovered her dead when he went to retrieve the luggage.

Bowers said he removed all identification from the body, including a wedding ring and other jewellery.

The woman's passport was found in the car along with Ayazi's body.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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A MATTER OF CONTROL

Both vulnerable. South deals. NORTH ♠ J ♣ J982 ♦ 1043 ♠ A J94

WEST EAST ♠ 7 ♠ 86542 ♠ 4 ♠ A K J952 ♠ Q6 ♠ Q6 ♠ 108732

SOUTH ♠ A K 1093 ♠ A Q 105 ♠ 87 ♠ K5

The bidding: South West North East 1 ♠ 2 ♠ Dbie Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠.

Don't lose control at the bridge table — either of your self or of the hand. Cover the East-West cards with your thumbs and decide how you would play four hearts after West cashes the king-ace of diamonds, felling his partner's queen, and continues with the jack, which you ruff as East sluffs a spade.

North's double of two diamonds was "negative" — i.e., for takeout. South's jump to three hearts was not forcing, but it did show a better than minimum opening bid,

and North had an easy raise to game.

Obviously, the hand presents no problem if trumps are 3-2, but what if they split 4-1? If you cross to the queen of spades and take a trump finesse, it wins. You go back to the ace of clubs to repeat the finesse, but now East shows out and, as the cards lie, you cannot recover — down one. Try it.

The winning line after ruffing the third diamond is to play the queen of trumps! If this wins, continue with the 10 of trumps. If the defenders don't take the king, cash the ace and start running the spades. The king of trumps is the third and last trick for the defense.

Best defense is for West to win the second round of trumps and lead another diamond. But you counter by ruffing in hand with the ace, and can then cross to the board with the ace of clubs to draw the last two trumps. Now your hand is high.

You keep control by refusing to release the ace of hearts. If you play that card too soon, the defenders can defeat you either by ruffing a spade, or by setting up a low trump by forcing dummy with a fourth diamond.